

Frederick the Great's Allies 1756–63



Stuart Reid • Illustrated by Gerry & Sam Embleton

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Men-at-Arms • 460

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FREDERICK THE GREAT'S ALLIES 1756-1763

INTRODUCTION

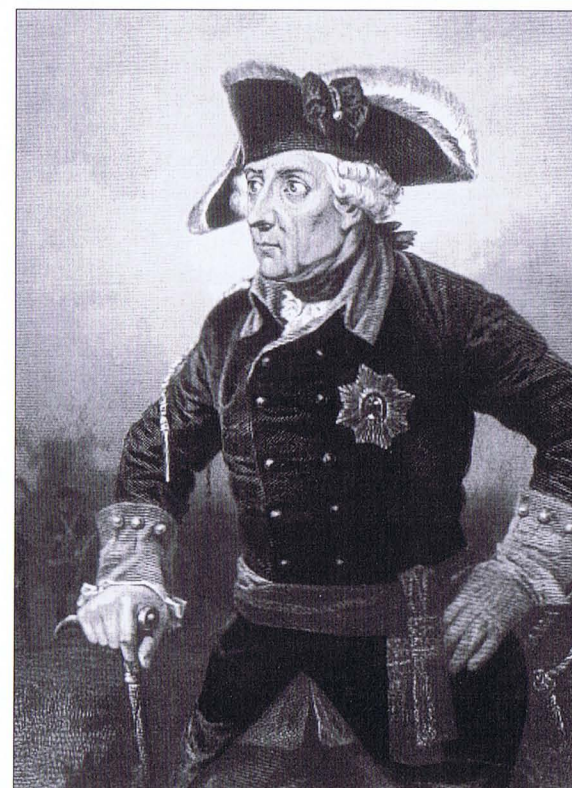
A more valid title for this study might actually be *His Britannic Majesty's Army in Germany*, for in reality Frederick II the Great of Prussia had very few allies during the Seven Years' War, and all of them were grouped together into a single army, largely in British pay. This was led at first by King George's son William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, and subsequently by a Prussian general, the *Erzhog* Ferdinand of Brunswick.

The key to it all, however, was Hanover, whose monarchy was held simultaneously by King George II of England. As Elector of Hanover he was at peace with the world in 1756, but as King of England he was simultaneously engaged in a low-intensity war with France in the American colonies and in India.¹ When this conflict began to escalate, France decided to retaliate by threatening King George's vulnerable Electorate of Hanover. At that time a defensive alliance was still in force between France and Prussia, and it was tactfully suggested by the envoys

of King Louis XV that if Frederick cared to invade Hanover, France would reciprocate by attacking his enemies in the Austrian Netherlands (modern Belgium). Hanover was all but defenceless, possessing no natural boundaries, and half her army was abroad protecting England against the illusory threat of French invasion. Nevertheless, Frederick, who had troubles enough of his own, declined this ingenious invitation, while kindly offering France the use of the Rhineland fortress of Wesel for any attempt she might care to make on her own account.

For his part, George II's prime minister William Pitt initially responded to this threat by concluding a not very secret alliance with Russia, promising the Empress Elizabeth I a substantial financial subsidy for launching a seaborne invasion of Prussia in the event of any Prussian attack on Hanover. Then, with this precaution in place, the British ambassador presented Frederick with a full copy of the Russian treaty – and an invitation to enter into a defensive alliance with

Frederick II the Great of Prussia (1713-86) was Ferdinand of Brunswick's brother-in-law, but also his superior, since Ferdinand was an officer of the Prussian army. Consequently, 'Old Fritz' was sometimes wont to treat Ferdinand as a subordinate rather than as the commander of an allied force.



¹ See Men-at-Arms 48, *Wolfe's Army*; MAA 313, *Louis XV's Army (5) Colonial and Naval Troops*; MAA 453, *Armies of the East India Company 1750-1850*; Warrior 85, *American Colonial Ranger 1724-64*; WAR 126, *Highlander in the French-Indian War 1756-67*; and Campaign 121, *Quebec 1759*.



William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, was the Allied army's first commander, until dismissed by King George II after failing to secure a victory at the battle of Hastenbeck; he then obeyed his royal father's instructions to conclude a cease-fire.

Britain and Hanover, in order to neutralize this 'Russian threat' and safeguard the Electorate... Although this was a particularly blatant piece of blackmail, Frederick readily assented to the proposal, which made far more strategic sense for Prussia than the existing alliance with France. Thus rebuffed, Louis XV proceeded instead to enter into a defensive alliance with the Holy Roman Empire (Austria), with whom she had been intermittently at war for the past 200 years and more.

With the old patterns of alliances completely turned on their heads, and with his western flank thus secured, Frederick of Prussia embarked upon an invasion of France's ally Saxony in August 1756, thus beginning the Seven Years' War.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1756:**
16 Jan Britain and Prussia sign Convention of Westminster
1 May France and Austria (Empire) sign Treaty of Versailles
19 June Prussian mobilization begins
28 Aug Prussia invades Saxony, beginning the Seven Years' War
- 1757:**
25 Mar French hussars exchange fire with garrison of Geldern
14 Apr Duke of Cumberland assumes command of Hanoverian Army
26 July After French and Imperialists invade Hanover, Cumberland is narrowly defeated by Marshal d'Estrées at Hastenbeck
10 Sept Armistice with French signed at Kloster Zeven
5 Nov (Prussians defeat French and Imperialists at Rossbach)
23 Nov Ferdinand of Brunswick assumes command of Allied army
26 Nov Allied breakout begins, leading to French withdrawal
5 Dec (Prussians defeat Imperialists at Leuthen)
- 1758:**
12 June Allied victory at Krefeld
23 July French victory at Sandershausen
3 Aug First British contingent disembarks at Emden
10 Oct French victory at Lutterberg
- 1759:**
13 Apr French victory at Bergen, near Frankfurt
1 Aug Allied victory at Minden
12 Aug (Russians and Imperialists defeat Prussians at Kunersdorf)
- 1760:**
10 July French victory at Korbach
16 July Allied victory at Emsdorf
31 July Allied victory at Warburg
5 Sept Allied raid on Zierenberg

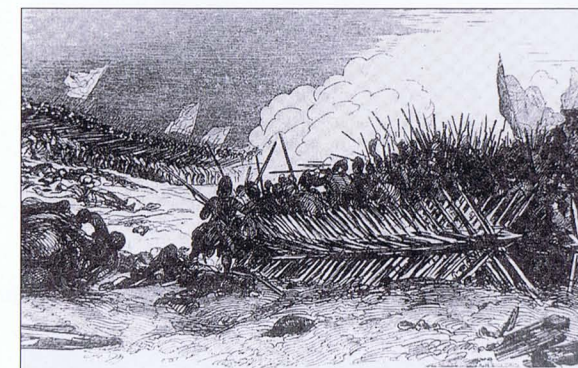
- 16 Oct** Allies checked at Kloster Kamp
25 Oct (King George II of England is succeeded by George III, who will gradually abandon alliance, reducing subsidies to Prussia and withdrawing British troops)
3 Nov (Prussians win costly victory at Torgau)
- 1761:**
16 June Allied victory at Vellinghausen
Oct Allied army forced to retreat to Brunswick
- 1762:**
5 Jan (Empress Elizabeth of Russia succeeded by Tsar Peter III, who opens peace negotiations with Prussia)
22 May (Treaty of Hamburg – Sweden withdraws from anti-Prussian alliance)
24 June Allied victory over French at Wilhelmsthal
9 July (Empress Catherine II deposes Tsar Peter, but does not renew war with Prussia)
21 July (Prussians defeat Imperialists at Burkersdorf)
23 July Allied victory over French at Lutterberg
30 Aug French victory over Allies at Nauheim
21 Sept French capture Amoneburg
Oct/Nov Allied army drives French back over Rhine
15 Nov Armistice signed between Allied and French forces
- 1763:**
16 Feb With all belligerents exhausted, Treaty of Hubertusburg between Prussia and Holy Roman Empire finally ends Seven Years' War

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S ARMY IN GERMANY

The largest part of the army was its Hanoverian contingent, which comprised not only the entirety of the Hanoverian army proper, but also included small subsidiary contingents from the neighbouring states of Sachsen-Gotha and Buckeburg; these were directly in Hanoverian pay, and were ultimately absorbed into the Hanoverian army. Excluding those contingents, at the outbreak of war the Hanoverian army had an establishment of some 29,000 men, mustering 34 squadrons of cavalry, 29 battalions of infantry and 8 companies of artillery. Light troops amounted to just one company of hussars and six of Jägers. During the course of the war the establishment of regular troops was increased only slightly, but the light troops would expand more than four-fold.

Next in order of importance came the armies of Hesse-Kassel (not to be confused with Hesse-Darmstadt) and Brunswick, which were not allied contingents in a political sense but were directly

An impression of a battle of the Seven Years' War, with Prussian infantry in the foreground drawn up behind *chevaux-de-frise* field defences.





leased by the British government. Initially the Hessian contingent accounted for 16 cavalry squadrons, 14 infantry battalions and two artillery companies; the Brunswick contingent originally comprised just one cavalry and four infantry regiments, totalling two squadrons and 10 battalions. There was also, from 1758, a strong British contingent, and a small Prussian force was incorporated into the Allied army.

At the outset this rather heterogeneous army was placed under the command of King George's son William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland. This prince of the blood, best known in Britain for his Culloden campaign, was also a Hanoverian general officer; he had experience of commanding a multi-national force in Flanders during the previous War of the Austrian Succession, and was considered the best possible choice. Unfortunately, he got off to a bad start: he had insufficient troops, and official instructions that specifically defined his primary role as the defence of Hanover, forbidding him from interfering should the French by-pass the Electorate in order to join with the Imperialist forces in Bohemia. Consequently, when

a replacement was required after the botched battle of Hastenbeck in July and Cumberland's subsequent armistice at Kloster Zeven in September 1757, Frederick was only too keen to allow his brother-in-law, Ferdinand of Brunswick, to take over command.

This appointment was at first welcomed by George II, but later regretted, when it became clear that Ferdinand (unsurprisingly) regarded co-operation with Frederick to be a higher priority than the defence of Hanover. Nevertheless, under Ferdinand's command the



The battle of Minden, 1 August 1759 (see Plate E). This spirited illustration by Harry Payne of the advance of the British infantry contingent in Gen von Spörcken's division is slightly marred by the prominence of the grenadiers, who were actually detached to form a consolidated battalion that was serving under Gen von Wangenheim on a different part of the battlefield.

Allied army developed into an efficient fighting machine, which for much of the war secured Frederick's vulnerable western flank against the French and left him free to concentrate on his many other enemies to the north, east and south. In the process it produced one of the British Army's most famous battle honours in its 'Year of Victories'—Minden, 1759.

ORGANIZATION AND UNIFORMS: CAVALRY

The mounted element of the Allied army can essentially be divided between 'battle cavalry' – variously designated as Kürassier, Karabinier, Cavallerie, Reiter, Horse or Dragoons; and hussars, who are separately described in this text under the heading 'Light Troops' (below).

At the outset, Ferdinand does not appear to have been particularly impressed by his battle cavalry, who seemingly manoeuvred slowly, and demonstrated a distinct preference for shooting it out with carbines rather than relying on swift movement in the Prussian style. This may seem surprising, since the superiority of shock tactics had been repeatedly demonstrated since the early 17th century; yet time and again cavalry had manifested a reliance on firearms rather than charging home with the sword. This was not a question of clinging to outmoded doctrines, but was rather due to a lack of peacetime training at any level above that of the single troop of horse. Armies suffered from the absence of any real opportunities to practice cavalry manoeuvres at regimental level, let alone in brigades or larger formations. Consequently, when they were called upon to do so in wartime there was an understandable tendency to move more slowly than necessary in order to preserve the dressing of the formations, as prescribed in the drill-book. (Indeed, it was testified at the court-martial of Lord Sackville after Minden that he 'always marched slow' for precisely that reason.) Thus, by default rather than by design, too much reliance came to be placed on the use of firearms.

With this tendency in mind, Ferdinand therefore begged and received from Frederick a brigade of Prussian dragoons, not just as a reinforcement but primarily in order to serve as an exemplar to teach his own cavalry how to speed up their movements and make proper use of shock action – which they soon did, with splendid results.

BRUNSWICK CAVALRY

Brunswick possessed a single regular cavalry regiment. Originally it was a dragoon unit, mustering four companies each of three officers and 66 men. This regiment was not included in the

Hanoverian mounted grenadier, Grenadieren zu Pferde, by Richard Knötel (see Plate B1). The mitre cap has a black front bearing the arms of Hanover, with a red 'little flap' bearing the white horse badge; the colours are reversed on the rear, with a red 'bag' piped in yellow above a black headband, and a red/black tuft on top. The red coat has red turnbacks, and black cuffs and lapels edged yellow; waistcoat, breeches and leather belts are buff. Note the slung musket, its butt held by a 'boot' on the nearside of the saddle below the holster housing. The horse furniture is red with King George's 'GR' cypher within a crowned garter, and black-and-yellow edging.





Lord George Sackville (1716–85). This engraving after Reynolds depicts him wearing an interesting fur-trimmed Hungarian-style coat – an entirely non-regulation garment typical of the latitude allowed in senior officers' dress. Commander of the British contingent until unfairly scapegoated by Ferdinand for his own command failings at Minden, Sackville was forced to resign his commission, but was effectively acquitted at his later court-martial.

original contract for Allied service, but in 1759 it was added to the subsidiary contingent. It was also enlarged before joining the army, converting to Karabiniere status and being increased to six companies totalling 502 officers and men, organized in three squadrons.

The original uniform is depicted in our Plate G3, but upon becoming carabiniers an entirely new uniform closely resembling that of Prussian cuirassiers was adopted instead. This comprised a buff-coloured *Kollet* with red cuffs and trim – a short, single-breasted coat fastened with hooks rather than buttons, which had evolved from the thick buff-leather coats worn by 17th century cavalymen – with a red sash and sabretache, and a black cuirass. (The change in status was evidently expensive, and in 1772 the regiment would revert once again to being dragoons, adopting a Prussian-style uniform with sky-blue coats faced yellow.)

BRITISH CAVALRY

From the outset of the alliance Frederick of Prussia had requested that some British cavalry be sent to Germany. The request was made in hope rather than expectation, but to his delight

six cavalry regiments totalling 14 squadrons landed with the first contingent in August 1758, and another 14 squadrons at various dates between May and July 1760, for a total of 28 squadrons (exclusive of the three-squadron 15th Light Dragoons, described here under 'Light Troops').

Like their continental counterparts, the British cavalry comprised regiments designated as both Horse and Dragoons. Since 1746 a number of the former had been redesignated as Dragoon Guards as an economy measure, but in practical terms this terminological alteration made no real difference. Their basic organization was similar to that of the Hanoverian cavalry, with six companies (designated as 'troops') in each regiment, grouped into two squadrons; however, two of the regiments serving in Germany – the Royal Horse Guards and the 1st Dragoon Guards – had nine troops apiece, grouped in three squadrons. In 1756 an additional 'light' troop was added to all but the Horse Guards, but it is unclear whether these actually served in Germany.

British cavalry uniforms were different from their German counterparts in two important regards. In the first place, with the exception of the Royal Horse Guards ('the Blues'), all wore red coats in conformity with their infantry comrades, rather than a contrasting colour. Secondly, in German armies it was usually the case that dragoons were distinguished from heavier cavalry by the addition of contrasting-coloured lapels on their coats. In the British service this convention was reversed, with regiments of Horse having fairly narrow full-length lapels on their coats, while Dragoon Guards had

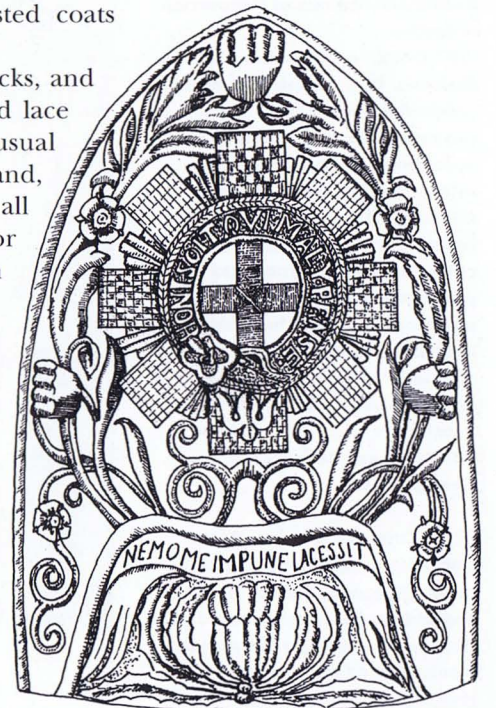
infantry-style half-lapels, and Dragoons wore double-breasted coats (normally worn open over waistcoats) without lapels.

Facing colours were displayed on cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, and also in waistcoats and breeches. None of the regiments had lace edge-binding to the lapels or cuffs; otherwise the usual conventions were observed, with button-loops, hat lace and, in the case of Dragoons, the aiguillettes on the right shoulder all corresponding to the button colour (i.e. white/silver or yellow/gold). There is no evidence that any of the Dragoon regiments still maintained grenadier companies wearing mitre caps at this period, but all ranks of the 2nd Royal North British Dragoons did so, at least for guard mountings and formal parades.

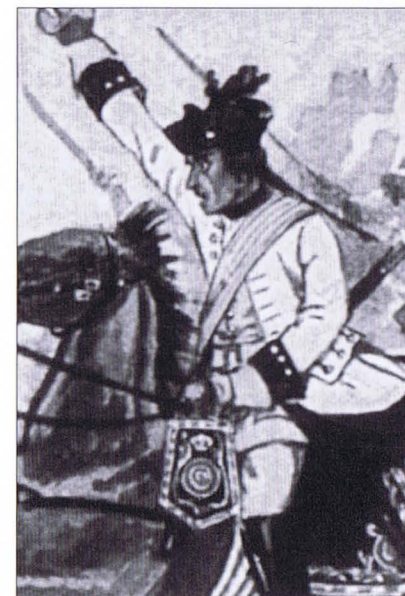
Equipment was of buff leather with the exception of the 2nd RNB Dragoons, who whitened their belts (although it seems likely that other regiments followed this trend over time, since it was confirmed in the 1764 Warrant). The Blues and regiments of Horse and Dragoon Guards carried their swords on a baldric slung over the right shoulder, crossed with the usual carbine belt slung over the left shoulder; a decorative flask cord in the facing colour was attached to the centre of the latter. Dragoon regiments carried their swords (and bayonets) frogged from a belt around the waist, and had an infantry-style cartridge box on a sling over the left shoulder.

Both types of cavalry were equipped with broadswords with basket hilts of regimental pattern, and carbines. Those carried by Dragoons were in effect slightly shortened infantry muskets, and were easily distinguished from those carried by Horse and Dragoon Guards by the fact that the latter, although only very slightly shorter, were fully stocked to the muzzle and could not be fitted with a bayonet.

Horse furniture was to be of the same colour as the facings, except in the 1st King's Dragoon Guards and 1st Royal Dragoons, which both



British officer's grenadier-style cap of the 2nd (Royal North British) Dragoons. Blue front bearing Garter star with white centre and red cross, and silver decoration; the 'little flap' is red with the thistle device in silver.



Hanoverian cavalry, by Richard Knötel:

LEFT Kürassiere-Regiment von Hammerstein. Plain black hat with oakleaf field sign. White coat with black cuffs and turnbacks; buff waistcoat and breeches; buff leather belts. Horse furniture black, edged red-and-white; 'GR' on red cartouches surrounded by crowned garter, within red and white wreaths.

RIGHT Kürassiere-Regiment Dachenhausen. White coat with apple-green cuffs and turnbacks; buff waistcoat and breeches; buff carbine belt. Horse furniture apple-green with red 'GR' cartouches, red and white crowns and wreaths.

Knötel illustrations of Hanoverian dragoons:

LEFT Dragoner-Regiment von Bussche. One company of each dragoon regiment was designated as grenadiers and accordingly wore a mitre cap rather than the usual tricorne, in this case of dark blue cloth with yellow trim. White coat with blue cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, yellow metal buttons. Buff waistcoat and breeches; buff leather equipment – note grenadier's brass matchcase on cartridge box sling. Horse furniture is blue – see text for this unit's complex edging arrangement.



RIGHT Dragoner-Regiment von Dachenhausen. White coat with red cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, and red cords on right shoulder; white lace edging to cuffs and lapels, and white lace button-loops. Buff waistcoat and breeches, buff leather belts. Horse furniture red, edged white-and-black; white horse of Hanover surrounded by white wreath surmounted by crown.



had red, and the 4th Horse, with buff-coloured furniture. Items were edged with yellow worsted or mohair (white) lace with a stripe in the middle; this was dark blue for Royal regiments, including those designated as King's or Queen's regiments irrespective of their facing colour. These and other titled regiments also had an appropriate badge or device on the housings – for instance, the castle for the Inniskillings; ordinary regiments had to be content with their number in Roman numerals upon a red cartouche, while all displayed the royal cypher 'GR' on the holster covers.

Regimental distinctions:

(* Units marked thus landed with the first British contingent in 1758.)
*Royal Horse Guards** Blue coats faced red; red waistcoat and breeches; brass buttons, gold lace on hat
*1st King's Dragoon Guards** Blue facings; yellow lace with button-loops set in pairs; gold hat-lace
2nd Queen's Dragoon Guards Buff facings with half-lapels; yellow lace with loops set three and three
*3rd Dragoon Guards** White facings with half-lapels; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
2nd Horse Green facings with full lapels; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
3rd Horse (Carabiniers) Pale yellow facings with full lapels; white lace with loops set in pairs
4th Horse Black cuffs and full lapels; buff turnbacks, waistcoats and breeches; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
1st Royal Dragoons Blue facings; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
*2nd Royal North British Dragoons** Blue facings; white lace with loops set in pairs. This unit had a number of peculiarities: in addition to their grenadier caps, they were distinguished by riding grey horses (and their eccentric commanding officer, Col Preston, insisted on wearing an old-fashioned buff coat in action)

*6th Inniskilling Dragoons** Full yellow facings; white lace with loops set in pairs (see Plate E3)

7th Queen's Dragoons White facings and lace, with loops set three and three
*10th Dragoons** Deep yellow facings; white lace with loops set three, four and five

11th Dragoons Buff facings; white lace with loops set three and three

HANOVERIAN CAVALRY

The **Guard cavalry** comprised one regiment designated as Garde du Corps, with three companies forming a single squadron, and mustering at the outset a total of only 188 officers and men. A second regiment was designated as Grenadiere zu Pferde (Horse Grenadiers), and while organized in two companies rather than three it had a near identical establishment of 187 officers and men.

Both regiments wore red coats, with straw-coloured waistcoats and breeches. The Garde du Corps were distinguished by red cuffs, dark blue turnbacks and silver lace; the Grenadiere zu Pferde had black cuffs and lapels, red turnbacks, and cloth mitre caps in place of cocked hats. These had black fronts bearing the arms of Hanover in gold with gold scrollwork; the frontal 'little flap' was red, with the white horse of Hanover and the motto *Nec Aspera Terram* in white. The rear of the cap was in reversed colours, the main 'bag' part being red piped in gold, with a black headband embellished with gold grenades.

As quasi-dragoons the Grenadiere zu Pferde carried infantry-style cartridge boxes on the right hip and belts in buff leather, and a 'booted' musket (i.e. slung from the shoulder, with its butt held in a pocket or 'boot' strapped to the saddle in front of the right leg), in place of the carbine hooked to a crossbelt, as issued to cavalry regiments proper such as the Garde du Corps. Both regiments had red saddle housings (horse furniture), bordered in silver for the Garde du Corps and in yellow and black for the Grenadiere zu Pferde. One source states that the former were mounted on grey horses.

The **Line cavalry** were similarly divided, between cuirassiers and dragoons; the principal difference between the two was in internal organization. The Leib-Regiment ('body[guard] regiment') and seven regiments of Kürassiere each comprised six companies, formed into two squadrons, with a total establishment of 361 officers and men. The four dragoon regiments were considerably larger, each having eight companies organized in four squadrons, with a total of 715 all ranks.

All cavalry regiments wore white coats with facing-coloured collar, cuffs and turnbacks; straw-coloured 'smallclothes' (waistcoats and breeches); and either tin or brass buttons matching their hat-lace colour. Notwithstanding

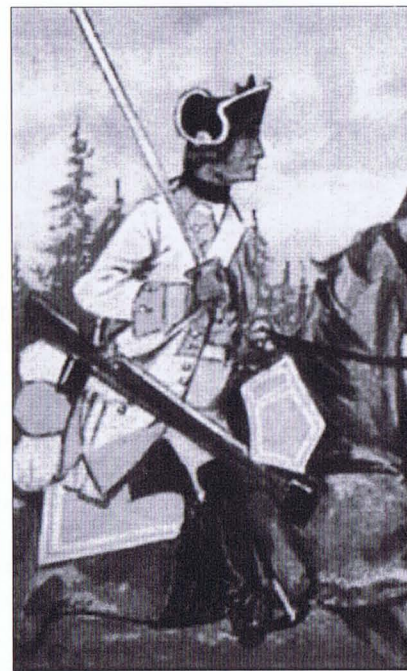
Hessian Leib-Dragoner, by Knötel. The red facings on the blue coat brought this regiment the name of 'der Rote Dragoner', distinguishing them from the other Hessian dragoon regiment, which had yellow facings.



Hesse-Kassel cavalymen, by Knötel:

LEFT Kürassiere-Regiment von Miltitz. White coat and breeches, dark blue collar and cuffs; gold lace on coat and hat; white belts. Horse furniture dark blue with gold lace.

RIGHT Dragoner-Regiment von Dittfurth. White hat-lace. White coat (other sources give light blue) with yellow collar, cuffs, turnbacks and lapels; straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches. Yellow horse furniture edged white.



their designation, none of the cuirassiers actually wore armour at this period. Dragoons differed in having facing-coloured lapels on the front of the coat, and their original status as mounted infantry was also marked by one of the eight companies being designated as grenadiers, distinguished by wearing mitre caps. Equipment comprised buff belts, a steel-hilted sword, a pair of pistols in saddle-holsters and a carbine. Like the Grenadiere zu Pferde, dragoons carried infantry-style cartridge boxes, belts in buff leather, and a 'booted' musket in place of the carbine and belt issued to cavalry regiments.

Regimental numbers were not allocated until the post-war re-organization; as was customary in most armies, each unit was instead referred to solely by the name of its current *Inhaber* or colonel-proprietor. (However, for the avoidance of confusion, in this text all regiments in the Hanoverian, Hessian and Brunswick armies are referred to by the name of their 1756 *Inhaber*.)

Regimental distinctions – Cuirassiers

Leib-Regiment Yellow facings and lace; white/red hat pompons. Yellow saddle housings, red edging with black half-circles; device of cypher within crowned garter, with white and red scrollwork

Skolln Orange facings, yellow lace, white pompons. Orange housings edged with two bands of light blue with a double zig-zag in yellow; white horse badge within crowned garter, no scrollwork

Dachhausen Light green facings, white lace, white pompons. Light green housings edged with yellow/white/red scroll pattern; white horse within crowned garter

Hammerstein Dark green facings, yellow lace, green/white pompons. Dark green housings, with a border of yellow and white rectangles edged in red; cypher within crowned garter, with red, yellow and white scrollwork

Grothaus Crimson facings, yellow lace, silver pompons. Crimson housings, edged with white spiral scroll edged yellow between two yellow stripes; white horse within crowned garter, yellow and white scrollwork

Hodenburg Scarlet facings, white lace, blue pompons. Scarlet housings edged with border of three stripes of red and black diagonals edged yellow; cypher within crowned garter, white and yellow scrollwork

Walhausen Dark blue facings, yellow lace, blue pompons. Dark blue housings edged with white and yellow diagonals; white horse within crowned garter; red, white and yellow scrollwork

Gillen Sky-blue facings, white lace, white pompons. Sky-blue housings, with broad red border edged yellow/blue/yellow; white horse within crowned garter, no scrollwork.

Regimental distinctions – Dragoons

Dachhausen Red facings, white lace, white pompons. Red housings with border of the same edged white and black; white horse within crowned black and white scrollwork

Breidenbach Light blue facings, white lace, white pompons. Light blue housings with narrow outer edge of one red stripe on white, and an inner border of two red stripes on white; white horse within crowned garter, white scrollwork

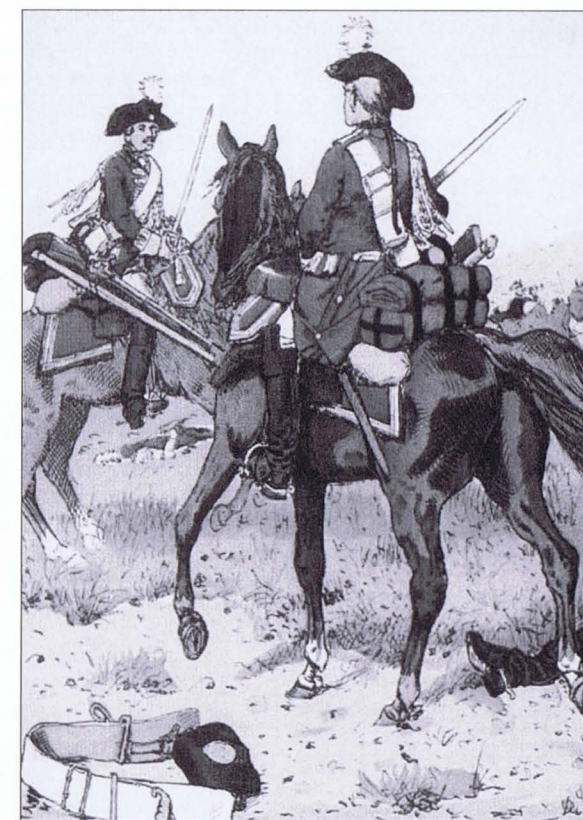
Bussche Bright blue facings, yellow lace, white pompons. Bright blue housings with outer border of white edged yellow with blue zig-zag, and inner border of red edged yellow, with white scroll intertwining a white central stripe; white horse within crowned white scrollwork

Bock Scarlet facings, yellow lace, white pompons. Scarlet housings, yellow border bearing pattern of red diamonds with blue centres, edged first with blue, and then on either side a red stripe edged with white with a white zig-zag. Device of white horse within crowned garter placed entirely within unusually broad border.

HESSIAN CAVALRY

As usual, the Hesse-Kassel cavalry were divided between Horse – in this case designated as Reiter – and Dragoons, with the former accounting for eight squadrons paired into four regiments, while the latter comprised two larger regiments each of four squadrons. Following the accession of the *Landgraf* Frederick II in 1760, a dramatic but ultimately insubstantial reorganization of the army took place. The *Landgraf* himself had served (with scant distinction) in the Prussian army, and immediately set about remodelling his own in the Prussian image. In the case of the cavalry a small *Garde du Corps* was added to the establishment, though apparently serving only in a ceremonial role. The four Reiter regiments were redesignated as Kürassiere, duly exchanging their white frock coats for buff-coloured Prussian-style *Kollets*, with facing-coloured sashes

Prussian Dragoner-Regiment Nr.9, as depicted in Knötel's *Uniformenkunde*. This regiment earned a good reputation while serving with the Allied army in the brigade commanded by the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp. See Plate B3 for uniform details; the edging of the horse furniture is white with two red lines, and note the long picket-stake carried strapped to the carbine by Prussian dragoons.



supporting waist-level sabretaches. They should also have received black cuirasses, but there seems to be some doubt as to whether these were actually issued.

Regimental distinctions

Leib-Regiment Initially, white coats with red collars, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; buff waistcoats and breeches, and brass buttons. Pompons, appearing at the sides of the hat but not at the front, were plain red. In 1760 the regiment was redesignated *Gensdarmes* and given buff-coloured Kollets, again with red collar and cuffs, and red waistcoats.

Reiter-Regiment Wilhelm Same uniform but with dark blue facings; this unit became the *Kurassiere-Regiment Erbprinz* in 1760

Reiter-Regiment Militiz Similarly dressed but with green facings; (1760) became *Kurassiere-Regiment Einsidel*

Reiter-Regiment Pruschek Light blue facings, and differed from the others in having tin rather than brass buttons. (1760) became *Kurassiere-Regiment Wolff*

For all four regiments the saddle housings were of the facing colour, with two bands of yellow or white edging according to button colour.

Unsurprisingly, the uniform of the two Hessian Dragoon regiments was patterned after that of the Prussian army. David Morier in 1748 (and Richard Knötel following him) depicts the coat as being fairly dark blue in colour, but it is possible that this was altered to Prussian sky-blue under the 1760 reforms. Both units had buff-coloured waistcoats and breeches, and whitened leather equipment. As with the other cavalry units, horse furniture was facing-coloured, edged with two bands of lace. *Leib-Regiment* ('Rote Dragoner') Red collars, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; yellow hat lace; yellow aiguillette on right shoulder

Dragoner-Regiment Prinz Friedrich Yellow facings, white lace and cords

PRUSSIAN CAVALRY

Early in 1758 Ferdinand of Brunswick was reinforced by a small brigade of 15 squadrons of Prussian regular cavalry commanded by Duke George Ludwig of Holstein-Gottorp. Ten of these squadrons were dragoons, belonging to Regiment Nr.9 (Holstein-Gottorp) and Regiment Nr.10 (Finckenstein). The other five squadrons were hussars (see under 'Light Troops', below).

The experiment was successful; each in their own ways, Holstein-Gottorp's dragoons and hussars proved extremely effective, and their example went a long way to increasing the overall efficiency of the other Allied cavalry. Unfortunately, Frederick the Great soon began demanding their return as he himself came under ever greater pressure from the Imperialists and Russians. Ferdinand was extremely reluctant to lose their services, and prevaricated to the point of insubordination before eventually releasing the dragoons in 1760, but the hussars remained under his command until the end of the war.

Both dragoon regiments wore sky-blue coats; Nr.9 had sky-blue collars, cuffs, and turnbacks, and Nr.10 wore orange facings. Neither regiment had lapels, but both wore a white aiguillette – i.e. a knot of cords in the button colour – attached behind the right shoulder. Waistcoats and breeches for both were straw-coloured, and horse furniture was facing-coloured.

INFANTRY

With the exception of the Hesse-Kassel contingent, discussed below, infantry regiments normally comprised single battalions, from which the grenadier companies were detached to serve in composite grenadier battalions. Initially these were used simply as additional battalions on the field of battle; but as the war went on they were increasingly detached for employment in *Kleinkrieg* ('little war') operations, to stiffen the rather dubious materials making up the various 'free corps' also entrusted with such missions.

Infantry tactics went through a process of change under the leadership of Ferdinand of Brunswick. At the outset of the war the 'platoon-firing' system was in favour; battalions were drawn up in three ranks and arbitrarily told off into lateral platoons, which then fired in a pre-arranged sequence intended to maintain a continuous rolling fire. As with the prevailing cavalry tactics, this tended to be a rather ponderous business, requiring a degree of training not always attainable under wartime conditions. Accordingly Ferdinand introduced the much simpler Prussian 'alternate-firing' system, under which companies were paired off to fire alternately in their own time. The same system had also been introduced (albeit unofficially) to the British Army by James Wolfe, and the integration of British and German infantry was consequently a good deal smoother than the parallel integration of the first cavalry contingent.

BRUNSWICK INFANTRY

Brunswick infantry regiments each consisted of five 'musketeer' (*Musketier*) companies and one grenadier company. On paper the total establishment of each regiment was 1,470 officers and men, but aside from the usual attritional problems each unit was weakened in wartime by the permanent detachment of the grenadier companies to form the consolidated grenadier battalions.



Knötel illustrations of Brunswick infantry:

LEFT Drummer of the Leib-Regiment. Silver scalloped lace on hat with red pompons. Yellow coat with red collar, cuffs, turnbacks, and swallow's-nests, with silver lace; white waistcoat and breeches. White drum-sling, black apron; brass-fronted drum, white cords; red bands decorated with black diagonals edged yellow.

RIGHT Officer of Infanterie-Regiment von Imhoff – see Plate G2 for uniform detail.

The four infantry regiments were very Prussian in appearance, with dark blue coats, white waistcoats and breeches, and black gaiters; musketeers had white-laced hats irrespective of the regimental button colour.

Regimental distinctions

Leib-Regiment No lapels, red cuffs and turnbacks; scalloped lace on hats; brass grenadier cap plates with dark blue 'bag' and red band at the rear; plain red pompons

Regiment von Behr Red cuffs, turnbacks and lapels; plain hat-lace; tin cap plates; red-and-white pompons

Regiment von Imhoff (see Plate G3) White distinctions; brass cap plates; blue-and-white pompons

Regiment von Zastrow Yellow distinctions; tin cap plates; white-and-yellow pompons

The two grenadier battalions were formed by pairing the companies from the Leib-Regiment and Imhoff, and those from Behr and Zastrow. As in the Hanoverian army, both battalions became independent of their parent regiments in 1759. The first was simply redesignated as Grenadiere-Bataillon von Stammer. The second was divided, with the company from Behr forming the cadre of Grenadiere-Bataillon von Redecken and that from Zastrow providing the backbone for Grenadiere-Bataillon von Wittdorf. The additional companies required to bring each up to strength were found from the militia, and presumably adopted the uniforms of the cadres.

(In addition to the regiments serving with Ferdinand's Allied army, a Leib-Grenadiere Garde and a Fusilier-Bataillon von Volschen were formed in 1759 and 1760 respectively, for home service, with the intention of stiffening the militia. Details are unrecorded, but the former were



Three battalions of British Footguards formed part of the 'Glorious Reinforcement' in 1759, serving in a brigade under MajGen Julius Caesar; as usual, the grenadier companies were consolidated into a separate battalion. David Morier's near-contemporary painting of a grenadier of each of the three regiments – part of a regimental series commissioned by the Duke of Cumberland in c.1751 – is an important source for general grenadier distinctions; see also Plate E2. Note the details of the cap, the broad cartridge-box sling with brass matchcase, and the narrower waist belt for the frogged bayonet and 'hanger'. Just visible behind the right shoulder of the right-hand grenadier, of the 3rd Footguards, is a corporal's shoulder-knot of white cords. For formal duties these soldiers wear white gaiters, with 36 black buttons; in the field black, brown or grey gaiters were substituted. (Reproduced by gracious permission of HM the Queen)

presumably dressed similarly to the Leib-Regiment with all wearing grenadier caps, while the latter probably had Prussian-style fusilier caps.)

BRITISH INFANTRY

All regiments comprised single battalions each of nine companies, one of which was designated as grenadiers and invariably detached to form composite grenadier battalions. All wore red coats, displaying the facing colour on cuffs, half-lapels and turnbacks. Coats were embellished with cuff and lapel edging and button-loops of white lace woven or embroidered with a unique regimental coloured pattern, although it was not unusual for this lace to be stripped off on service. Waistcoats were red irrespective of facing colour, as, normally, were the breeches; in theory Footguard battalions and Royal regiments were allowed blue breeches, but red ones were frequently observed. There was also a growing tendency, documented in paintings during this period, for officers to adopt buff-coloured waistcoats and breeches, and – perhaps as result of campaigning alongside German units – for the rank-and-file to adopt buff or straw-coloured breeches instead of red. Grenadiers wore cloth mitre caps, with fronts in the regimental facing colour and usually bearing the 'GR' cypher, though occasionally a regimental 'ancient badge'.

Regimental distinctions

(* Units marked thus landed with the first British contingent in 1758.)

1st Footguards Dark blue facings, button-loops set singly; Garter star on grenadier cap

2nd Footguards Dark blue facings, button-loops in pairs; Garter star on cap

3rd Footguards Dark blue facings, button-loops in threes; Thistle star on cap

5th Foot 'Gosling-green' facings; St George and Dragon on cap. (All ranks adopted fur grenadier caps in 1761, having captured them from the Grenadiers de France at Wilhelmstahl)

8th Foot Dark blue facings; white horse within crowned Garter on grenadier cap

11th Foot Green facings; 'GR' cypher on cap

*12th Foot** Yellow facings; 'GR' cypher

*20th Foot** Yellow facings; 'GR' cypher

*23rd Foot** Dark blue facings; Fusiliers – all ranks and companies wore caps with Prince of Wales's badge of three white feathers

24th Foot Light green facings; 'GR' cypher on grenadier cap

*25th Foot** Yellow facings; 'GR' cypher (see Plate E2)

33rd Foot Red facings; 'GR' cypher

*37th Foot** Yellow facings; 'GR' cypher

50th Foot Black facings; 'GR' cypher

*51st Foot** Dark green facings (see Plate E1); 'GR' cypher



Col Robert Monckton did not serve in Germany, but his portrait provides a good example of the style of gold-laced scarlet uniform favoured by senior British officers at this time.



British infantryman of c.1760 on the march, after a contemporary watercolour sketch by Paul or Thomas Sandby. Note the shorter gaiters with a stiffened knee-piece, and the very large weather-flap of the cartridge box, which was by now enlarged to take 35 rounds. The original sketch clearly suggests that he is wearing straw-coloured breeches rather than the regulation red.

HANOVERIAN INFANTRY

Aside from the Fussgarde, which boasted two battalions, Hanoverian infantry regiments each comprised a single battalion of seven companies, with an authorized establishment of 122 officers and men in each company, and a regimental staff of 19 (the Fussgarde had 20 staff, covering both battalions). Each company included (administratively) eight grenadiers, who were detached to provide the personnel for a composite company; this was itself assigned to one of three consolidated grenadier battalions for the duration of the campaign (except in the case of the Fussgarde, whose grenadiers were permanently assigned to protect Ferdinand of Brunswick's headquarters). The initial establishment of 29 battalions thus consisted of two Fussgarde battalions, 24 musketeer battalions and three grenadier battalions. Two further musketeer battalions were subsequently raised in 1758, with only five companies apiece and apparently without grenadiers.

A notional increase of a different sort was the decision to take a number of composite grenadier battalions into the line as units in their own right. Grenadier battalions were always regarded as a drain on their parent units, because the nature of their duties resulted in a higher degree of attrition than normal; these casualties then had to be made good by taking drafts from the musketeer companies, which in consequence sometimes dwindled alarmingly. Turning the consolidated grenadier battalions into permanent formations did not therefore increase the actual establishment of the army, but compelled the grenadiers to maintain themselves by regular recruitment rather than by simply milking the musketeer units.

All regiments wore red coats, with regimentally-coloured facings and (usually) waistcoats, and straw-coloured breeches. The grenadiers' cloth mitre caps had facing-coloured fronts and red 'bags'. As with the cavalry, regimental numbers were not allocated until the post-war re-organization, and until then units were referred to by the name of the current Inhaber; those listed below are the designations in 1757.

Regimental distinctions

Fussgarde Dark blue facings, yellow lace; white/yellow hat pompons
Scheitherr Dark green facings, yellow lace; green/yellow pompons
Alt-Zastrow White facings, yellow lace; red/yellow pompons
Spörcken Straw-coloured facings, yellow lace; red/yellow pompons
Fabrice Straw-coloured facings, white lace; straw/red pompons
Knesebeck Black cuffs and lapels, white lace; white waistcoats and turnbacks; red/black/white pompons
Druchtleben Black cuffs and lapels, yellow lace; yellow waistcoats and turnbacks; black/red pompons
Ledebour Medium blue facings, white lace; red/blue/white pompons
Stolzenberg Black cuffs and lapels, red turnbacks, white lace; straw-coloured waistcoats; yellow/white pompons
Grote Deep yellow facings, white lace; red/yellow/white pompons
Hodenberg Orange or straw-coloured facings, yellow lace; yellow pompons
Hardenberg Orange facings, white lace; red/yellow pompons
Caraffa Yellow facings, white lace; yellow/red pompons
Wangenheim Straw-coloured facings, white lace; straw-coloured pompons



Hauss Straw-coloured facings, yellow lace; straw/red pompons
Diepenbroick White facings and lace; red/white pompons
Block White facings and lace; red/white pompons
Sachsen-Gotha Green facings, white lace; green/red pompons. (Until absorbed into Hanoverian army in 1759, white coat faced green – see Plate A3)
Jung-Zastrow Dark green facings, white lace; dark green/white pompons
Post Green facings, white lace; white turnbacks and waistcoats; red/green/white pompons
Marschalk Red facings, white turnbacks and waistcoats, white lace
De Cheusses Yellow facings, yellow lace; straw-coloured turnbacks and waistcoats; red/yellow pompons
De La Chevallerie Yellow facings and lace; yellow/red pompons
Kielmansegge Light green facings, white lace; green/white pompons
Brunck Red facings and waistcoat, white turnbacks; white lace on hat only, green/white pompons
Halberstadt Blue facings, white lace; blue/red pompons
Wrede Red facings, white turnbacks and waistcoats; white lace on hat only, white/red pompons

HESSIAN INFANTRY

At the outset of the war the Hesse-Kassel infantry regiments each comprised one battalion of ten companies, but, as with the cavalry, a substantial reorganization took place in 1760. Thereafter the existing ten musketeer companies were consolidated into eight, and then divided into two battalions each of four companies. At the same time the practice of drawing eight men from each company to serve as grenadiers ceased, and instead the two remaining companies from each regiment were designated as grenadiers and detached to form consolidated battalions.

The 1760 reforms also brought about some confusing retitling. In 1757 the senior infantry regiment was promiscuously referred to as the

Knötel illustrations of Hanoverian infantry:

LEFT Officer of the Fussgarde. Gold hat-lace, oakleaf field sign. Scarlet coat with dark blue cuffs, lapels and lining; gold lace cuff-edging and button-loops on coat. Unlaced dark blue waistcoat with gilt buttons. Buff or straw-coloured breeches; buff belt, gold shoulder-sash.

CENTRE Unteroffizier, Infanterie-Regiment Alt-Scheele. Silver hat-lace and pompon. Red coat with straw-coloured cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, and straw-coloured waistcoat, all edged with silver lace; silver lace button-loops. Buff breeches and belt.

RIGHT Grenadiers, Infanterie-Regiment von Scheitherr. Cap with dark green front, 'GR' on red cartouche within crowned garter; red 'little flap', white horse of Hanover; red rear 'bag', green band, all piped in yellow; red-and-green tuft. Red coat with dark green cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; yellow lace button-loops; unlaced dark green waistcoat. Buff breeches and belts.



Uniforms of three Hanoverian Line regiments, by Knötel:
LEFT Fahnen-junker (standard bearer) of Infanterie-Regiment von Hardenberg – see also Plate A2. Red coat with orange cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; silver lace edging to cuffs and lapels and on hat. Orange waistcoat trimmed with silver, and pale straw-coloured breeches.



CENTRE Infanterie-Regiment von Knesebeck. Black cuffs and lapels, white lace button-loops; white turnbacks and waistcoat; buff-coloured breeches; buff leather belts and gaiter-straps.

RIGHT Infanterie-Regiment Alt-Zastrow. Yellow hat-lace and red pompons. Red coat, white cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, yellow lace button-loops; white waistcoat; buff breeches; buff leather belts.



Garde or Leibgarde zu Fuss, while Infanterie-Regiment Nr.5 was the Leib-Regiment. However, in 1760 an entirely new guard battalion was raised and designated 1. Bataillon Garde; a consolidated grenadier battalion previously ranked sixth in seniority became 2. Garde; and the original Leibgarde found itself redesignated 3. Garde, both of the latter two being divided into two battalions. To further complicate matters the Regiment Erbprinz, formerly seventh in seniority, was first elevated to become 4. Garde, and then almost at once retitled Leib-Regiment; the former Leib-Regiment now became Infanterie-Regiment Wutginau; and the old Infanterie-Regiment Nr.12 became Erbprinz. Two regiments were also redesignated as fusiliers, probably because the Landgraf himself had commanded a fusilier regiment (Nr.48) when in the Prussian service.

Otherwise the reasons for this complex reorganization are unclear. The Landgraf was certainly consciously attempting to remodel his army at least outwardly on Prussian lines, and ostensibly the new two-battalion organization was also intended to induce the French to believe that the strength of the Hessian infantry had doubled (in reality it may also have been calculated as a way of increasing the British subsidy). Ferdinand of Brunswick responded to the changes by commenting in July 1761 that 'I always count the Hessian infantry regiments as two battalions, despite their weakness and the fact that they do the job of [only] one battalion. I do this in order not to upset calculations made on this basis since the beginning of the campaign' – i.e. since before he realized that the additional battalions he had been promised did not actually represent an increase in the strength of the Hessian contingent.

All regiments had dark blue coats with various facing colours. In c.1748 Morier had depicted a very distinctive combination of dark blue breeches and buff or straw-coloured waistcoats, and this combination may have survived until the reforms of 1760 brought a much closer conformity to Prussian styles. At that time, if not before, both waistcoats

and breeches were variously described as yellow, straw-coloured or white, which suggests that exact colours may have varied from issue to issue. Grenadier caps were Prussian in style, with tin or brass fronts according to button colour, as were the fusilier caps issued to two regiments in 1760.

Regimental distinctions, 1757 (with 1760 changes)

Garde or Leibgarde zu Fuss Red facings, white lace; tin grenadier cap plate with yellow 'bag'; red pompons with white centre

Capellan (1760, *Füsilier-Regiment von Berthold* – see Plate F2) Orange facings; brass cap plate, orange bag; red pompons with orange centre

Fürstenberg (1760, *Füsilier-Regiment von Gilsa*) Red facings (1760, black); brass cap plate, cream bag; blue pompons

Prinz Ysenburg Pale buff facings; brass cap plate, pale buff bag; white pompons

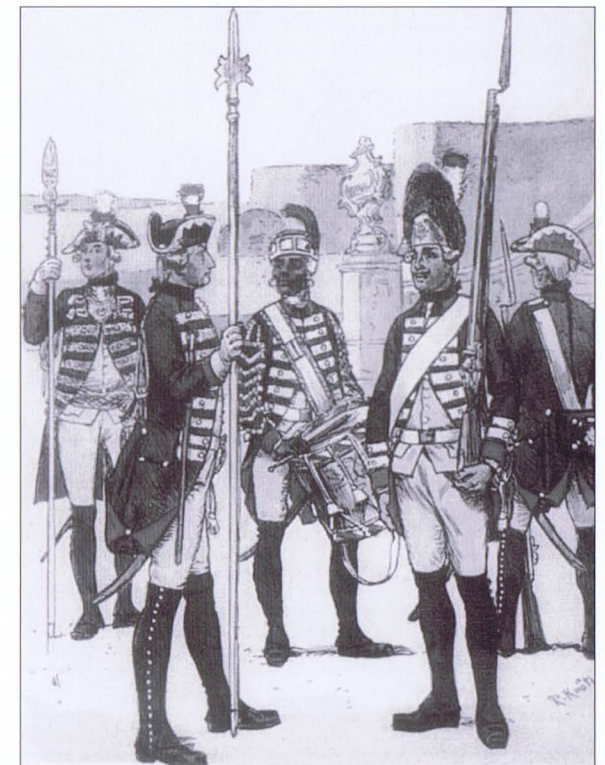
Leib-Regiment (1760, *Wutginau*) Red facings with no lapels; brass cap plate, red bag; yellow pompons

Grenadier-Regiment (1760, 2. *Garde*) Ponceau-red facings; tin cap plate, red bag (1760, yellow); red pompons with white centre

Erbprinz (1760, 4. *Garde/Leib-Regiment*) Yellow facings (1760, rose-red); tin cap plate, yellow (1760, red) bag; red pompons with yellow centre (1760, rose-red)

Mansbach White facings; brass cap plate, white bag; white pompons

Prinz Karl Blue lapels (1760, red); brass cap, red bag (1760, blue); white pompon with blue centre (1760, all blue)



This Knötel illustration depicts the uniform worn in 1785 by the Hessian 1. Bataillon Garde raised in 1760, the only new feature being the fur grenadier cap that had by now replaced the original tin-fronted mitre.



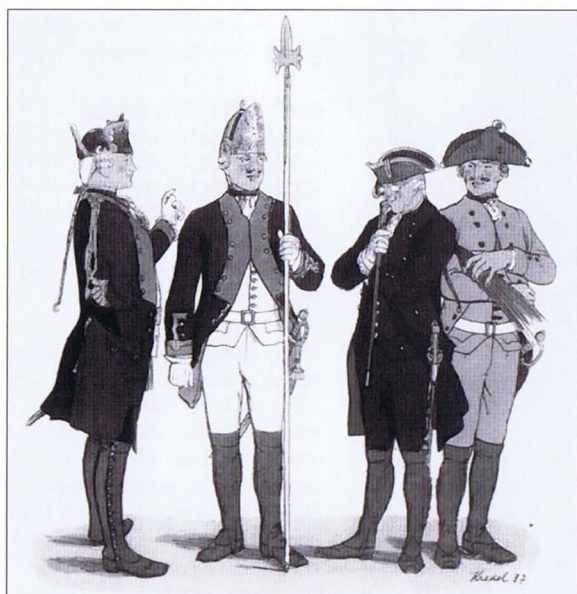
Uniforms of the pre-1760 Hesse-Kassel Leib-Garde zu Fuss/Regiment Garde, as reconstructed by Knötel:
LEFT Grenadier. Dark blue coat and breeches, red facings, white lace, straw/buff waistcoat – see Plate F1 for details.



RIGHT Officer. Hat with rich silver lacing, white-over-red plume, black cockade. Dark blue coat with red collar, cuffs and lining, richly decorated with silver brandenburgs. Yellowish-buff smallclothes; silver-and-red sash; note gorget – silver ground, gold-wreathed blue cartouche – and spontoon.



ABOVE Grenadier of the Hesse-Kassel Infanterie-Regiment Graf von Hessenstein, 1749, as depicted in Knötel's *Uniformenkunde*; by the outbreak of the Seven Years' War the *Inhaber* had changed and this had become the Regiment von Kanitz. Knötel shows the coat-facings, waistcoat, and the bag and pompon of the tin-plated grenadier cap as a buff/orange shade.



Kanitz Buff/pale orange facings (later yellow – probably due to problems fixing former colour dye); tin cap plate, buff/yellow bag; buff/yellow pompon
Prinz von Anhalt Red facings; tin cap plate, red bag (1760, blue); white pompon with blue centre
Hanau Red facings; tin cap plate, dark rose-red bag; rose-red pompon with white centre

HESSIAN MILITIA

Like a number of other German states, Hesse-Kassel also boasted a Landmiliz or militia. These were ordinarily employed as garrison troops and to maintain order in the absence of a police force; however, the French invasion of Hesse saw them forced to take the field in 1758. The experience was not a happy one, although they performed rather better than might be expected of militia. On 23 July 1758, Prince Ysenburg was forced to make a stand at Sandershausen against the invading French army under the Duc de Broglie. Although badly outnumbered he had a strong position, and deployed his regulars on each flank with the three Militia units in the centre, supported by a scratch battalion of 'invalids'. For some time he held his own, but as the Militia took casualties they began closing in to the centre, gradually losing contact with the regular units on either flank. As those regulars in turn came under increasing pressure the Militia were soon all bunched together in the centre and firing on anyone who came near them, friend or foe. At this point Ysenburg rightly decided that enough was enough and ordered a retreat, which – surprisingly – was carried out more or less successfully.

Only dire necessity had prompted the employment of the Militia in battle, and the experiment was not repeated. Instead, in 1760 the three Militia regiments were reorganized into Garrison battalions of four companies each, and one standing battalion of Garrison Grenadiers with four companies. The uniforms worn by the Garrison battalions were presumably the same they had worn as Militia: plain-finished dark blue coats with red turnbacks and Swedish cuffs, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches, and white-laced hats.

LEFT Hessian Fusiliers, c.1760, by Fritz Kredel. The officer – note right shoulder cord – and NCO wear the orange facings and lining and gold lace of Regiment von Berthold (see Plate F2). The bookish-looking gentleman with the cane is a *Feldscher* or company clerk, all in plain dark blue lined with red. Far right, carrying a sheaf of straw, is an officer's servant dressed in an all-grey uniform, showing green at the turnbacks and in small button-loops on his waistcoat.

Regimental distinctions

Wurmb Orange cuffs; tin or pewter grenadier cap plates, blue bags; white pompons with red centre

Gundlach White cuffs; tin cap plates, red bags; white pompons

Freywald Yellow cuffs; tin cap plates, yellow bags; yellow pompons

Prior to 1760 the grenadier companies had worn the uniforms of their parent units as above, but when the consolidated grenadier battalion was turned into a standing unit it adopted red cuffs, and caps with dark blue bags.

PRUSSIAN INFANTRY

At the very outset of the war the Rhine fortress of Wesel was garrisoned by six infantry battalions belonging to Fusilier-Regiments Nr.44 (Jungkenn), Nr.45 (von Dossow) and Nr.48 (Hessen-Cassel [sic]). It was hoped that the garrison commander, Gen de la Motte, might be able to hold out for some weeks in order to delay any French invasion and so give the Allies time to concentrate, but in the event that concentration was so much delayed that he had to evacuate the fortress and retire on Lippestadt.

This caused some awkwardness; since Gen de la Motte was merely the fortress commander, as soon as the garrison marched out of the gates the senior infantry officer, LtGen the *Erbprinz* of Hesse-Kassel (the man who was to embark on the complete reorganization of his army, described above, on succeeding as *Landgraf* in 1760) insisted on taking command of the force. He was manifestly incompetent to do so, but although Gen de la Motte complained to King Frederick the monarch declined to intervene; there was a danger that if the *Erbprinz* was displaced it could create difficulties with the Hessian contingent then serving under the Duke of Cumberland. Frederick appealed to Gen de la Motte to have patience: 'for Heaven's sake do me a favour and do not worry about rank. You know quite well that precedence is all he thinks about ... so if you want to do me a really good turn, flatter him and be obsequious'. After some minor skirmishing, 'Old Fritz'



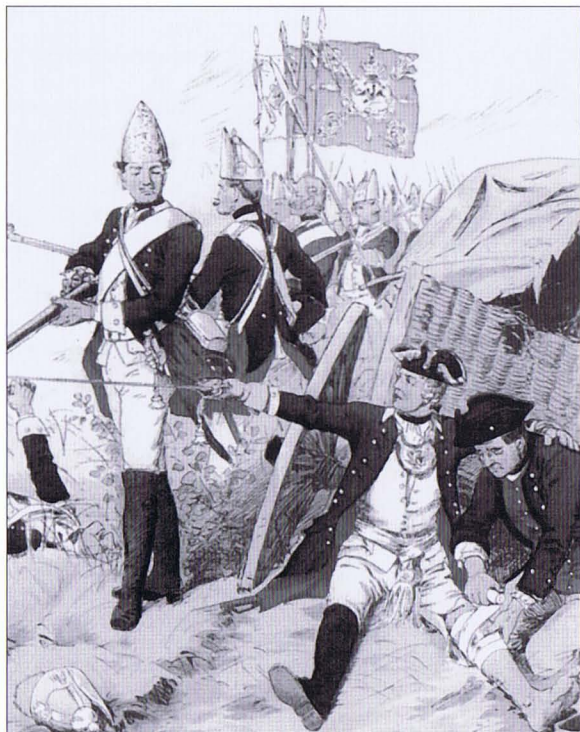
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Hessian Line infantry uniforms, by Knötel:

LEFT *Fahnen-junker* of Infanterie-Regiment Prinz Karl. Hat with gold lace and red-on-white pompons. Dark blue coat with red collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; gold lace edging on cuffs, cuff-flaps, lapels. White waistcoat and breeches. Dark blue regimental colour with lighter blue central cartouche bearing red-and-silver lion, below crowned red scroll with gold lettering; silver wreaths and grenades, gold cyphers.

CENTRE Grenadier, Infanterie-Regiment Prinz Ysenberg. Brass cap-plate, straw-coloured rear bag piped in white, straw-coloured pompon. Dark blue coat, straw-coloured facings and turnbacks, white lace button-loops on front and cuff flaps, brass buttons. Straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches, red neck-stock, white belts.

RIGHT Musketeer, Infanterie-Regiment von Mansbach. White lace and red pompons on hat; usual red neck stock. Dark blue coat and lapels, white cuffs, turnbacks and button-loops. Dark blue waistcoat and breeches; white belts.



Prussian fusiliers, as depicted in Knötel's *Uniformenkunde*. This is Regiment Nr.35, with straw-coloured collar, cuffs and smallclothes; see text for distinctions of Nrs. 44, 45 and 48, which served in the Allied garrison of Wesel.

withdrew the entire brigade before the Erbprinz could do anything damaging, but in the event Gen de la Motte's pessimism was justified: only some 900 men ever got back to Magdeburg, the rest having deserted en route.

All three regiments had collarless coats with red cuffs and turnbacks, but only Fusilier-Regiment Nr.48 had red lapels. Waistcoats and breeches were straw-coloured for Nr.44 and Nr.48 and white for Nr.45; all three units had black gaiters, and brass-fronted fusilier caps. The caps had a black rear 'bag' and headband (Nr.44), straw-colour and red (Nr.45), and all-blue (Nr.48). Other than these, and the lapels worn by Nr.48, the only real distinguishing features were the lace loops on the coats; Nr.44 had red with white tassels, Nr.45 white loops and tassels, and Nr.48 yellow loops with red tassels. Leather equipment for all three comprised broad whitened-buff belts with a black cartridge box slung behind the right hip, and the usual cowhide knapsack slung on the left together with a tin canteen and canvas bread bag.

TECHNICAL TROOPS

Like that of the cavalry, the performance of the Allied artillery was at first less than effective. Early practice seems to have been largely a matter of establishing batteries, assigning a suitable infantry escort, and then leaving them to their own devices. Factoring in a general shortage of guns – and those neither particularly modern nor mobile – it is easy to see why Ferdinand and his mentor Frederick were less than satisfied with the artillery arm.

The army's original artillery commander, the Graf von Schaumburg-Lippe, had a fair reputation as an artillerist, but his expertise lay largely in the science of gunnery rather than in the tactical use of artillery on the battlefield. While the strength of the artillery arm soon increased, in part by making extensive use of captured French guns, its tactical handling still lagged behind. This was exemplified by an unedifying dispute between the Graf von Schaumburg-Lippe and Gen Wangenheim at Minden over the question of deciding priorities for artillery fire, which so distracted all concerned that Ferdinand himself had to personally attend to the deployment of much of the Allied artillery. Consequently, when Schaumburg-Lippe received an attractive offer to enter the Portuguese service in 1762 Ferdinand parted from him with few obvious regrets.

Brunswick

To all intents and purposes the Brunswick artillery was a subordinate arm of the infantry, as its three companies had no heavy guns and were solely employed in manning the 'regimental' artillery. They wore plain dark blue coats with red cuffs and turnbacks, being distinguished from

HANOVERIAN INFANTRY

1: Grenadier, *Fussgarde-Regiment*, 1757

2: Musketeer, *Infanterie-Regt Hardenberg*, 1759

3: Musketeer, *Infanterie-Regt Sachsen-Gotha*, 1759





HANOVERIAN LIGHT TROOPS

- 1: Mounted Jäger, Freytag'scher Freikorps
- 2: Grenadier, Scheitherscher Freikorps
- 3: Musketeer, 1st Battalion, Légion Britannique



BRITISH CONTINGENT AT MINDEN, 1759

- 1: Private, 51st (Brudenell's) Regt of Foot
- 2: Grenadier, 25th (Edinburgh) Regt of Foot
- 3: Trooper, 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons







TECHNICAL TROOPS
 1: Hanoverian pontoneer
 2: Hesse-Kassel artilleryman
 3: Artilleryman, Scheither'scher Freikorps

the infantry by wearing straw-coloured waistcoats and breeches. Officers and NCOs had gold-laced hats, while ordinary gunners had yellow lace.

Drivers had essentially the same uniform, but with blue cuffs and grey turnbacks.

Britain

The basic administrative unit of the artillery was the company. Tactically, British guns were grouped in 'brigades' of light and heavy artillery, but unlike their German counterparts there is no evidence for the use of 'battalion guns' by British infantry units serving with the Allied army.

All Royal Artillery personnel wore dark blue coats with red facings, and yellow or gold lace according to rank. Officers were primarily distinguished from the rank and file by wearing red waistcoats and breeches, while the ordinary gunners and NCOs had blue smallclothes. For full dress, officers' coats and waistcoats were generously laced in the usual fashion, but on active service plain 'frocks' and unlaced waistcoats were the norm. Similarly, although white gaiters were supposed to be worn in full dress, for other duties officers had boots and all other ranks wore black gaiters.

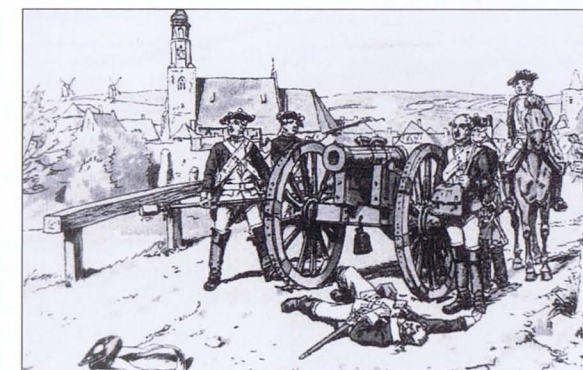
At this date there was no corps of drivers as such, and civilian contractors were normally employed instead. Morier's group painting of artillery personnel at Roermond in 1748 includes a figure in a steel-grey coat with red cuffs and white lace, who appears to be a driver; but in 1756 the *Ipswich Journal* noted that 'The drivers attached to the train of artillery wear white frocks [smocks?] with the letters GR in red on their backs'. Given the lack of a military corps of drivers, it is striking that the performance of the Royal Artillery in Germany was distinguished by mobility; they not only came into action more rapidly than their German counterparts at Minden and Warburg, but proved capable of efficient tactical redeployment during battle.

Buckeburg

The Schaumburg-Lippe/Buckeburg contingent was – reasonably – organized on the presumption that as it would only ever take the field as part of a coalition force, and it was felt that it could do so more effectively by specializing in artillery than by attempting to field a more balanced 'army in miniature'. At the outset the contingent comprised a single battalion of infantry, theoretically numbering 820 officers and men, and supported by a single company of artillery with two light 3-pounder guns. By 1759 the artillery had acquired eight heavy 12-pounder cannon; and in the summer of 1761 there were 16 pieces in total, including siege howitzers. It is not clear where the gunners to man these additional guns came from. Some sources suggest that they were found by drafting men from the Carabiniers, but it seems rather more likely that they came from the infantry battalion; like the Sachsen-Gotha regiment, this was solely employed as an escort for the artillery train rather than as a line unit.

The infantry uniform was a blue coat with red collar, cuffs and turnbacks, and a white waistcoat

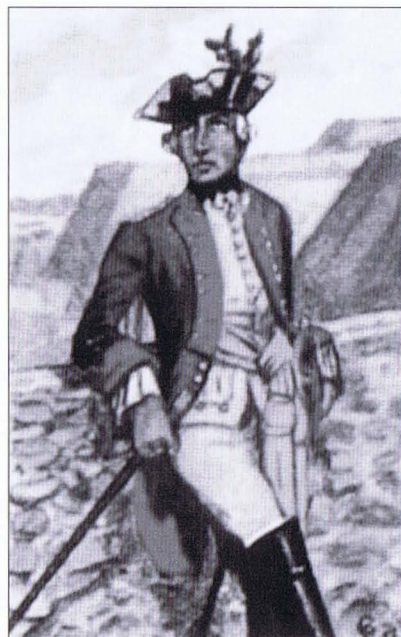
Print after Knötel illustration of the crew of an artillery piece of the Seven Years' War. Visible from left to right are the ramrod/sponge man, the gunner with portfire, the loader with satchel, the gunlayer, and a mounted officer section-commander.



Knötel illustrations of technical troops:

LEFT Hanoverian officer of the *Ingenieur-Korps*. Gold hat-lace; blue coat with red cuffs, lapels and lining; gilt buttons; gold knot hanging behind right shoulder but otherwise no decoration. Buff or straw-coloured smallclothes, gold sash.

RIGHT Hesse-Kassel artilleryman (see Plate H2). White hat-lace, red pompons; dark blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, with red cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; white belts.



and breeches. Musketeers had the usual black hat with white lace, and red-over-white pompons; the grenadier company was distinguished by blue cuffs, and a brass-fronted fusilier cap with dark blue bag in the Prussian style. The artillery had light blue or steel-grey coats and breeches, with black cuffs and red turnbacks, white waistcoats, and unlaced hats.

Hanover

At the outset of the war the Hanoverian artillery comprised six companies each of 67 officers and men, but under Ferdinand it was reorganized into four field brigades each of two to three companies.

All artillerymen wore light blue-grey coats, sometimes referred to as steel-grey, with red cuffs, lapels and turnbacks. Officers had straw-coloured waistcoats and breeches, while all other ranks had red waistcoats and straw-coloured breeches. Lace was yellow or gold according to rank, and equipment was buff leather. As with the infantry, they started the war with a generous amount of lace trimming on the lapels and waistcoats, but this was soon abandoned. Drivers had red coats with red turnbacks, but bright blue cuffs and lapels, with brass buttons in pairs. Waistcoats were straw-coloured, and buff breeches were worn with heavy boots; the hats were plain black.

Hesse

The original establishment of two companies was increased to three in 1757, with a total of 15 officers, 27 NCOs and 385 men including drivers, and in 1760 to five companies. These companies were only responsible for the heavy artillery, however, and by the end of the war there were four other companies providing personnel for the two light cannon assigned to each infantry battalion. The basic uniform for both officers and men was a dark blue coat with red facings, and a dark blue waistcoat and breeches. Drivers had loose white jackets, and round hats with red bands.

LIGHT TROOPS

The seemingly exponential growth in what were termed 'light troops' during the war was largely attributable not to any revolution in tactics, but to two closely related factors.

At the outset it was naturally recognized that reconnaissance and outpost work was best undertaken by light cavalry such as hussars and carabiniers, or light dragoons, in order to avoid dispersing and wearing out battle cavalry on such time-consuming duties.

With that in mind, a certain Rittmeister Nikolaus Luckner and his Free Company of Hussars were induced to exchange the Dutch service for the Hanoverian just prior to the commencement of hostilities. As the French were obviously engaged in exactly the same tasks, it was soon found necessary by both sides to back up these scouts by attaching infantry or Jäger companies to the light horse; and so the business of what became known as *Kleinkrieg* rapidly escalated, as this recruitment assumed a momentum of its own.

There was little that the Allies could do to expand their regular forces during the course of the war, other than – as already mentioned – by rather hopefully increasing the official establishment of existing battalions, and turning consolidated grenadier battalions into permanent units. This was partly because all the available native Brunswick, Hanoverian and Hessian recruits were needed to maintain the existing units, and partly due to the perceived practical difficulty of training new battalions up to pre-war standards. Instead the necessary increase in the size of the army was achieved by the creation of 'free corps' – independent or unattached units, supposedly recruited from neutral states such as Hamburg or Denmark, but all too frequently made up of deserters, former prisoners of war and other mercenary riff-raff.²

Frederick the Great himself was famously disdainful of such troops. As a rule these new corps lacked the discipline, training and equipment of regular units, and were employed almost exclusively in 'small war' operations or on garrison duties, simply because they were unfit to stand in a proper battle-line. There is no doubt that some of them acquired a certain expertise in this kind of work, but the net effect of pumping more and more men into this particular role was that the enemy were obliged to counter their efforts by doing likewise, so the numbers on both sides inevitably spiralled upwards to no great effect.

Conversely, the 'free corps' often had great difficulty in maintaining the necessary numbers in their ranks. Partly this was because their being so frequently engaged in skirmishing with the enemy led to higher casualties, and partly because the easier discipline and opportunities for plunder were counterbalanced by a lack of basic logistic support; allied to the drudgery of ceaseless outpost work, this all produced high rates of sickness and desertion.

Notwithstanding the tendency to fill out the ranks with ever more dubious (and occasionally exotic) material, a certain amount of reorganization and consolidation took place as the war went on. In late 1761 Ferdinand was compelled to raise an entire brigade of Chasseurs or

Knötel illustration of a Brunswick officer of the *Husarenkorps* (see Plate G1). Brown fur *Kolpack* with yellow bag, silver-and-red cords. Yellow dolman and breeches, blue cuffs and pelisse, silver cords and lace, black fur trim on pelisse. Horse furniture and sabretache blue with silver lace.



² The promiscuous use of both German and French languages in 18th-century military contexts produced several different spellings, e.g. *Frei-Corps*; to avoid confusion, we use the style *Freikorps* throughout this text.

Jägers under Lord Cavendish, comprising four battalions of 'volunteers' drawn from the regular units in each of the four national contingents.

Brunswick

As one of the smaller Allied contingents, Brunswick contributed proportionately few light troops.

The **Brunswick Hussars** (see Plate G1) were raised late in 1759 with the aid of the inevitable British subsidies, and at first consisted of four companies each of 114 men plus a staff of 17, for a total of 473 men under Maj Anton von Roth. For the 1761 campaign the regiment was augmented to six companies totalling about 747 men, led by Maj Friedrich Adolf Riedesel zu Eisenbach (who was later to achieve some fame commanding the Brunswick contingent in North America).

A **Jäger corps** commanded by Col von Hoym was raised in 1759, comprising two companies of mounted Jäger zu Pferde and three companies or 'brigades' of Jäger zu Fuss, each notionally 95 strong but usually numbering rather fewer. Only the second company was equipped with rifles, the rest having to make do with ordinary muskets. In 1762 an additional company of each type was added, to give a notional total of 746 officers and men, including 13 gunners serving two *amusettes* – very light artillery pieces. As was customary, all the Jägers wore green coats; the mounted companies were distinguished by straw-coloured collars and turnbacks, while the foot companies had red. All wore green waistcoats and straw-coloured breeches, with black boots or gaiters, and the usual plain black hats with green pompons. All equipment was of black leather.

For most of the war these units comprised the totality of the Brunswick light troops, but in 1762 a **Light Infantry** battalion was raised as the Brunswick contribution to Cavendish's Jäger brigade (see above). Details of its uniform appear to be unrecorded; but the Light Infantry Battalion von Barner which served a decade later in North America had dark blue coats with black collar and cuffs and red turnbacks, white smallclothes, hats trimmed with white lace and black/white pompons, so a similar uniform may possibly have been worn in 1762.

In the same year a rather exotic unit entitled the *Volontaires auxiliares de Brunswick* was also formed, under Col von Rauch; its curious title reflects the fact that French was then the common 'lingua franca' in Europe, so from sheer necessity served as the 'official' language used within such units. This one comprised three rather large companies of cavalry, totalling 338 officers and men, and three equally large companies of infantry mustering a further 417 all ranks. In common with many 'free corps' its composition was cosmopolitan in the extreme, and a substantial proportion of these Volunteer Auxiliaries appear in fact to have been Balkan deserters and prisoners trafficked by the Prussian army. At any rate, the cavalry comprised a company each of Husaren, Grenadiere zu Pferde, and Bosniaken, while the infantry were officially designated as grenadiers but were more commonly referred to as 'Turcos'. At the armistice they were handed back to the Prussians, who promptly

disbanded them and dispersed the personnel into regular units.

Unsurprisingly, their uniforms are poorly recorded. The Hussars apparently had a dark blue uniform with yellow facings and cords, and black fur on the pelisse; a black *Kolpack* with yellow bag; and dark blue horse furniture edged in yellow. They thus seem to have been fairly conventional in appearance, but the Bosniaks were much more exotic. They supposedly had a bright blue jacket and Turkish trousers, with a dark grey kaftan trimmed with white, and a white fur turban wrapped around a red cap; they may also have been equipped with lances. References to grenadiers are slightly complicated by uncertainty as to whether they apply to the Horse Grenadier squadron, the infantry, or both. At any rate, they seem to have had blue coats (with a suggestion that the cavalry wore dark blue and the infantry light blue), with green facings, green waistcoats, and straw-coloured breeches with black boots or gaiters. Headgear is described as a *Kaskett*, which would suggest a cylindrical Balkan-style cap as worn by Pandours.

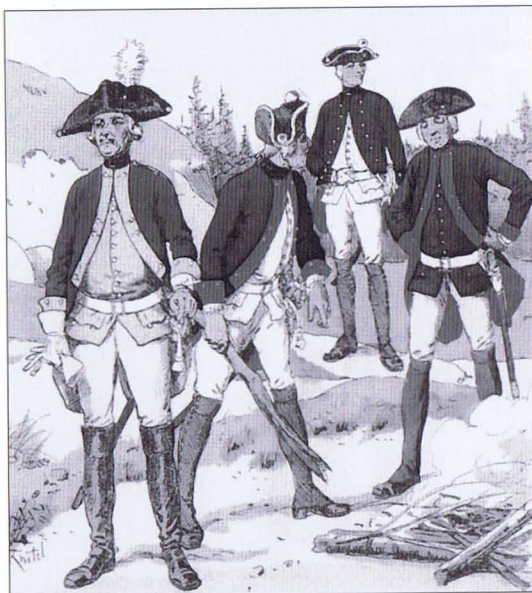
Britain

Britain contributed a surprising number of light troops, exclusive of locally raised units in British pay. The best known were the 15th Light Dragoons of Emsdorf fame; but the 87th and 88th Highlanders were employed as light troops from the outset, and in 1761 a third battalion known as Fraser's Chasseurs (or Jägers) was raised from volunteers out of the Line regiments. (Arguably, if counter-intuitively, the two British grenadier battalions should also be considered under the heading of 'light troops', since they were brigaded with the 87th and 88th Highlanders and almost exclusively employed on Kleinkrieg operations.)

The **15th Light Dragoons** had: 'A short coat lapelled and turned up with dark green, white lining and white waistcoat, with a green collar, broad white buttons and buttonholes, two white shoulder straps, two pairs of white linen breeches, jockey boots and spurs, the cloak with a green cape and lined with white. Instead of a hat, a copper cap enamelled with black, brass crest with white and red hair, the front turned up, with the King's cypher and crown painted or enamelled on it, a flap rolled up behind in order to cover the neck on occasion. A tanned leather cartouch-box instead of a pouch, with a running spring swivel, and a tanned leather sword belt'. A contemporary painting by David Morier largely confirms this description, though the 'flap' on the helmet actually took the form of a green turban with two ends hanging down at the rear; he also shows a red cockade on the left side of the helmet, as well as a lion-mask at the front of the brass 'crest' or comb.

The **Highlanders** were formed around a nucleus of recruits originally intended for the Black Watch, but instead formed into first one and then two battalions and shipped to Germany rather than North America. Although separately numbered, throughout their existence they served in effect as two battalions of the same corps, with officers frequently being

Knötel's reconstruction of Brunswick troops in Canada in 1776 is not irrelevant to the earlier period. The figure at left depicts the new Prussian-style uniform adopted by the old Karabiniere-Regiment von Bibow on reverting to dragoon status in 1772, but the uniforms worn by the others are unchanged since the Seven Years' War. Note the Jäger (right) in green coat and waistcoat, red facings and lining, and straw-coloured breeches; and (right background) a light infantryman in a blue coat with black collar and cuffs but no lapels, red turnbacks and white smallclothes.



Von Natzmer's Uhlans were a light horse unit on the Prussian payroll. Curiously, Knötel's reconstruction of their Turkish-style light blue and white uniform appears to be very similar to that described for the Bosniak company of the 'Volontaires Auxiliares de Brunswick' raised in 1762, although the latter are said to have had red caps and grey kaftans instead of the light blue and white shown here.



Scottish Highland soldier as depicted in Maj George Grant's *New Highland Military Discipline* of 1757, which was published shortly before the raising of the 87th and 88th Highlanders for service in Germany.

cross-posted between the two units, and so far as can be ascertained both wore the same uniform. From portrait evidence, this comprised the usual Highland dress of flat blue bonnets, short red jackets with medium green facings, plaids or kilts in the familiar Army tartan, and red and white chequered stockings. Officers' portraits show pale buff-coloured waistcoats but, as noted elsewhere, this was a common affectation, and it is likely that the rank-and-file had red. Officers had gold lace, edging the collar and cuffs and in alternate bastion and round loops at the front of the jacket. All equipment was of black leather, comprising a sword belt over the right shoulder supporting a basket-hilted broadsword on the left hip, and another holding a belly-box in front.

There is no indication of any distinguishing features that may have been worn by **Fraser's Chasseurs/Jägers**, although precedent suggests that at the very least they probably stripped the lace from their various regimental coats.

Britain also maintained a substantial auxiliary unit in the five-battalion *Légion Britannique*. As its title suggests, this was a somewhat cosmopolitan crew, largely comprised of Germans but including Swiss and Dutch (and at least one Russian). While it is usually considered a part of the Hanoverian Army, it was paid for by Britain and ultimately had a British commanding officer, MajGen John Beckwith. Each Legion battalion primarily comprised four musketeer companies notionally of about 125 men, for a total battalion establishment of 500 all ranks, although it is unlikely that any of the battalions actually succeeded in parading anything like this number. In addition to the four musketeer companies each battalion also had an organic cavalry element in the form of a 100-strong dragoon company. In practice, however, all of the Legion's dragoon companies were normally consolidated as a single unit; eventually this was regularized, by the creation in 1762 of a distinct cavalry regiment under Rittmeister von Hattorf.

All five battalions of the Legion had straw-coloured breeches, but otherwise their uniforms were completely different. The 1st Battalion (see Plate D3) had light blue coats with straw-coloured cuffs and turnbacks, and straw-coloured waistcoats; the 2nd Bn were in medium blue with scarlet facings and white waistcoats; the 3rd Bn had orange facings and waistcoats; and the 4th and 5th Bns wore red coats, the former with bright blue facings and straw-coloured waistcoats, the latter with black cuffs, white turnbacks and white waistcoats. The 1st Battalion had brass buttons (and gold lace for the officers' hats), while the others had tin. The hats worn by the rank-and-file were unlaced and decorated only with green cockades (and probably green leaves as well, when they could be had). Equipment was of buff leather with black cartridge boxes. The dragoon companies wore the same uniforms as their parent battalions, and had red horse furniture, trimmed in yellow for the 1st Bn and white for the others. There appears to be no evidence that they received a new uniform on being consolidated into a regiment under Capt von Hattorf.

Buckeburg

In addition to the artillery train and its attendant infantry escort, the contingent also included a small unit of carabiniers – light cavalry armed with short hussar-style carbines – and a supporting company of Jägers. The former (see Plate C3) were issued a black *Kollet* with red facings and

straw-coloured breeches, with black armour and fur-trimmed helmets. The accompanying Jägers had dark green coats with yellow collar and cuffs and green turnbacks, yellow waistcoats, green breeches, plain black hats, and the usual boots.

Hanover

The Hanoverian light troops fell into two ill-defined categories: those which were specifically raised as part of the Hanoverian Army, and those paid for by the British government.

It would appear that there were no light troops of any description prior to the war, but in May 1757 a Jäger corps was formed by Graf von Schulenburg; as was customary, this comprised two companies, one of mounted and one of foot Jägers. At about the same time Luckner and 54 of his 'free hussars' came over from the Dutch service (see above), and from this modest beginning a considerable expansion soon took place.

Luckner's Hussars mustered 90 men by the end of 1757, but in the following year they doubled their strength to two companies totalling 8 officers and 174 men. In 1759 they redoubled to four companies, and by 1760 there were no fewer than eight companies, paired in four squadrons, with an official establishment of 32 officers and 632 hussars. The original uniform of Luckner's light horse is depicted as Plate C2. However, as the combination of black *Flügelmütze* 'winged cap', green dolman and pelisse, and red breeches was virtually indistinguishable from the uniform of the French Army's Chasseurs de Fischer, a different outfit was soon adopted – probably during the first increase in establishment. This comprised a white dolman and breeches, and a red pelisse with yellow cords and black fur edging; the 'winged cap' was replaced with a grey fur *Kolpack* with a red bag, and the original green barrel-sash was exchanged for a yellow one, though the original yellow boots were retained. The saddle cloth was red with yellow trimming, and officers seem to have had a dark brown fur shabraque with red vandyked edging.

The expansion of the **Jäger corps** was at first less dramatic, with only two additional foot companies being added in the course of 1758, and then an additional mounted company during the following year. At that point Col Freytag succeeded to the command of the corps, and the strength was raised considerably thereafter. It was expanded to no fewer than six companies each of Jäger zu Pferde and Jäger zu Fuss, and while the establishment of the mounted companies remained at 106 all ranks, that of the infantry companies went up from 156 to 206 – on paper, at least. In the long run this expansion proved unsustainable; in 1762 Freytag's Jäger corps was amalgamated with another raised by Maj von Stockhausen, to make a single battalion of just four companies, with a total of 804 officers and men. Stockhausen had first raised a Schützen battalion in 1759, comprising one grenadier and two Jäger companies; although he added two companies of Jäger zu Pferde the following year it seems unlikely

Troopers of the Scheitherscher Frei-Karabinere (left) and Luckner'scher Frei-Husaren in Hanoverian service, c.1760, as depicted in Knötel's *Uniformenkunde*. As was not uncommon, the white uniform with green facings and waistcoat worn by the cavalry element of Scheithers's Freikorps was totally different from that worn by his green-coated infantry. The hussar of Luckner's corps is illustrated wearing the later uniform – white dolman and breeches, red pelisse and *Kolpack* bag, yellow lace and boots – adopted after it became clear that the original (see Plate C2) was dangerously similar to that of the Chasseurs de Fischer in the French army.



that the full 500-man establishment was ever achieved, hence the amalgamation with Freytag's unit in 1762.

The uniform of both corps was broadly similar (see Plate D1 for a Jäger zu Pferde of Freytag's). All wore the traditional dark green coats, with green facings, green waistcoats, tin buttons, straw-coloured breeches, plain black hats, and either boots or gaiters depending on whether they were mounted or on foot. Horse furniture for the mounted element of both corps was green with white or silver trimming. The only distinguishing features were the absence of lapels from the coats worn by the mounted element of Stockhausen's corps, and the curious grenadier caps worn by some of his men. These resembled the *Kaskett* then being worn by some Prussian and Austrian light troops, with a cylindrical leather skull and low frontal plate, similar in size to fusilier caps but more rounded. In the case of Stockhausen's grenadiers the caps were green and bore the arms of Hanover on the front in silver; although it is uncertain whether these were embroidered, or if the front was tin with a green-painted ground, the latter seems more likely. In theory, as Jägers all of the men in both corps should have been armed with rifles, but it is more likely that ordinary infantry muskets predominated, and these were certainly carried by Stockhausen's grenadiers.

Scheithers Freikorps was formed by Capt H.A. Scheithers in May 1758 as part of the process of expansion of light troops following the lessons of Ferdinand's first campaign. Initially it comprised a single company apiece of carabiniers, grenadiers and Jägers, but by 1761 it had increased somewhat to muster four companies of carabiniers and two of fur-capped grenadiers, besides the Jäger company and an artillery detachment. There are also suggestions that there may have been a troop of Uhlans, but this was most likely the one which ended up in the Brunswick Auxiliary Volunteers as 'Bosniaks'.

The carabiniers had a very pale straw-coloured coat or *Kollet* with dark green collar, cuffs, turnbacks and trimming, a straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches, and green horse furniture trimmed in white. Hats were plain black with a green cockade; as their designation suggests, they were armed with straight swords and short hussar-style carbines slung on a swivel belt. Both the musket-armed grenadiers and rifle-armed Jägers wore green coats with green facings, and straw-coloured waistcoats and breeches; apart from the grenadiers' brown fur caps (see Plate D2) they were further distinguished from Freytag's men by a vandyked lace pattern on collar and cuffs.

To improve their self-sufficiency each infantry company had a six-strong detachment of *Zimmermen* or carpenters, wearing the same uniform but distinguished by a low-crowned helmet with a crest and a green turban trimmed with white, bearing the white horse of Hanover on the front. The corps' artillery were probably detached from the regulars, as they appear to have worn the same steel grey/blue uniform with minor distinctions as to the cuffs and waistcoat (see Plate H3).

Hesse-Kassel

The Hessian contribution was surprisingly small in relation to the overall size of the contingent. It comprised a regiment of hussars and the predictable Jäger corps, and later a 'free regiment' was contributed to Cavendish's multi-national Chasseur/Jäger brigade.

Possible reconstruction of an infantryman of Trumbach's Freikorps (Volontaires de Prusse) in that corps' final uniform, c.1762. White hat-lace, red pompons; black neck stock. Dark blue coat; red collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks; white metal buttons. White smallclothes and belts, black gaiters. (Painting by Bryan Fosten, 1992)



The **Husaren-Korps** had actually been raised in 1744 as a single squadron of two companies, and served with the Hessian contingent in Scotland during the last Jacobite Rising. At the outbreak of war in 1756 it was expanded into a small regiment by adding a second squadron, and the reorganization of 1760 saw these doubled to four squadrons by the simple expedient of redesignating each company as a squadron – without making much effort to increase the actual number of sabres, except on paper. They wore a light blue (or 'Attila-blue') dolman and pelisse with red collar and cuffs and yellow cords, and buff breeches. The *Kolpack* was of brown fur with a red bag and yellow cords. One source cites white fur trim on the pelisse, but it may also have been brown. Sabretache and horse furniture were both light blue trimmed in yellow.

The Hessian **Jägers** could also boast a respectable pedigree, tracing their history back to the beginnings of the Hessian army during the Thirty Years' War. By 1757 there were two companies of Jäger zu Fuss, and by August 1759 two companies of Jäger zu Pferde had been added. Interestingly, they appear to have been unaffected by the 1760 reorganization, although from that time there was a tendency to refer to the foot companies as a 'battalion'. The uniform comprised the traditional green coat, with red collar, cuffs and lapels, and green smallclothes.

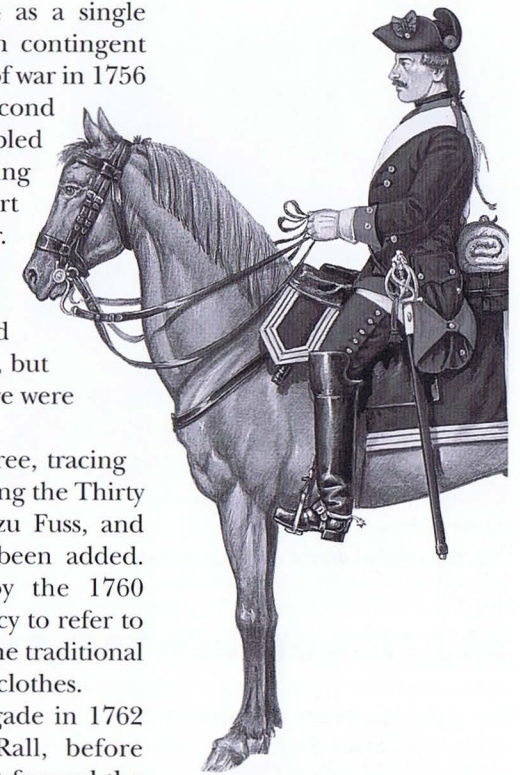
The light infantry unit raised for Cavendish's light brigade in 1762 was initially designated the Chasseur Battalion von Rall, before becoming the **Frei-Regiment von Gerlach**. When it was first formed the men would no doubt have worn the uniforms of their parent units, but later adopted the blue uniform with green waistcoat and breeches illustrated as Plate F3.

Prussia

Prussian light troops serving with the Allied army comprised in the main five squadrons of regular hussars, three drawn from Regiment Nr.5 (Reusch) and the other two from Nr.7 (Malachowski). There were additionally four hussar squadrons belonging to a regiment known as the Freikorps or Frei-Husaren Bauer, raised by Ferdinand in 1760 (see commentary to Plate H1) and taken into Prussian pay the following year. Ferdinand also raised an infantry unit, the Freikorps von Trumbach – also known as the *Volontaires de Prusse* – which was taken onto the Prussian payroll as Frei-Bataillon Nr.11.

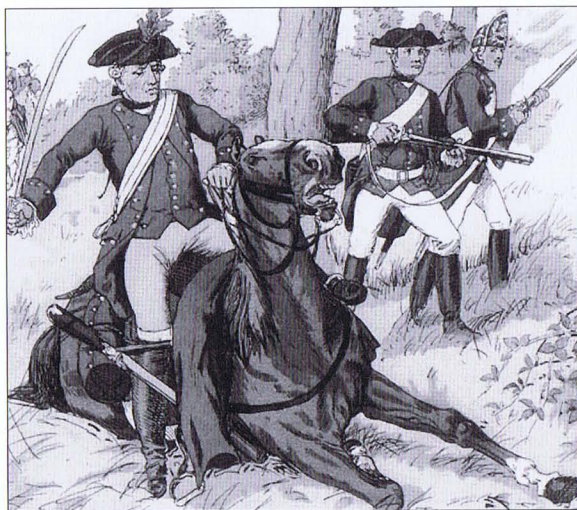
A trooper of Husaren-Regiment Nr.5 (Reusch), otherwise known as the Black Hussars, is illustrated as our Plate C1. The Yellow Hussars, Nr.7 (Malachowski), had a broadly similar uniform except for the colour of the dolman and *Scharawaden* leggings, and the decoration with white lace and cords. Their pelisse, however, was blue with black fur; in the Prussian service this garment was rarely worn slung except for parade, but was worn buttoned as an additional jacket in cold weather. Bauer's Free Hussars had a black *Flügelmütze* trimmed with yellow, an all-dark blue uniform with yellow collar, cuffs, lace and cords, black fur trim on the pelisse, and a red-and-yellow barrel-sash.

The **Freikorps von Trumbach/Volontaires de Prusse** was raised in 1759 with one dragoon, one Jäger and four infantry companies. By 1760 the cavalry element was two squadrons of hussars, which later passed to



Reconstruction of a dragoon of Trumbach's Freikorps, 1759. Black hat cockade and green pompons. Green coat and waistcoat; red collar, shoulder strap, cuffs and turnbacks; brass buttons. Straw-coloured breeches under buttoned green *Scharawaden* leggings; white belts. Horse furniture green, edging yellow with two red stripes. (Painting by Bryan Fosten, 1992)

NEXT PAGE Knötel's reconstruction of a mounted Jäger, foot Jäger and grenadier of Freytag's Jägerkorps (see Plate D1); coats and waistcoats are plain green, breeches straw-coloured for the Jäger zu Pferde and white for the infantrymen. Note that the latter are erroneously depicted wearing boots; a contemporary illustration clearly shows the usual thigh-length gaiters.



Freytag's Jägerkorps – see caption page 41.

PLATE COMMENTARIES

A: HANOVERIAN INFANTRY

Superficially there was a strong resemblance between the uniforms worn by King George II's Hanoverian and British troops. In both services the infantry wore red coats, and regiments were distinguished by contrasting facing colours on the cuffs, lapels and turnbacks. The Hanoverians also wore cloth grenadier caps rather than the brass- or tin-fronted ones favoured by the other North German armies. There were, however, a number of differences and variations in style. In about 1748 the Swiss artist David Morier depicted lace trimming on the edges of cuffs, lapels and waistcoats, just as in the British Army; but the later *Gmundner Prachtwerk* shows the lace restricted to button-loops only, perhaps as a wartime economy measure. More strikingly, where most British units had red waistcoats and breeches, their Hanoverian counterparts had facing-coloured waistcoats and straw-coloured breeches; indeed, the experience of serving alongside the Hanoverians may have been a significant factor in British units switching from red to straw or white breeches in the 1760s.

A1: Grenadier, *Fussgarde-Regiment*, 1757

The *Fussgarde* were distinguished by the dark blue facings, unique to this regiment. The musketeer companies of the two battalions served under Spörcken at Minden, taking part in the advance against the French centre, but the two consolidated grenadier companies were permanently assigned to headquarters security duties throughout the war. Gauntlets are depicted by Morier, who indicates that they were worn by all Hanoverian grenadiers, but they were probably restricted to guard mountings. Perhaps the oddest feature of the Hanoverian uniforms, but one that is clearly depicted in all of the *Gmundner Prachtwerk* illustrations, is the large bunch of oakleaves attached to the headdress – odd, because this was traditionally the Imperial/Austrian field-sign.

the *Freikorps Bauer*. The original dragoons reportedly wore green coats with red collar, Swedish cuffs and turnbacks, yellow buttons, and green *Scharawaden* with high boots. The hussars seem to have had a brown fur *Kolpack* with white bag, white dolman faced with yellow, blue pelisse with white fur and lace trim, blue-and-white barrel-sash and blue overalls. The *Jäger*s had a light green coat with red Swedish cuffs and turnbacks, white buttons, a green waistcoat, and straw-coloured breeches. By c.1760 the infantry companies wore a dark blue coat with light blue collar, Swedish cuffs and lapels, red turnbacks, white buttons, and the light blue smallclothes common among Free Corps units. It is possible that by 1762 the facings had finally changed to red and the smallclothes to white, with red pompons on white-laced hats (see illustration, page 40).

A2: Musketeer, *Infanterie-Regiment Hardenberg*, 1759

This *Musketier* also displays some typical features of Hanoverian uniform, including the pompons or cord-pulls in the two side corners of the hat, in this case coloured red and orange. Hardenberg was one of the better Hanoverian regiments; at Hastenbeck it was part of the outflanking force under Breidenbach and Dachenhausen which recaptured the key Obensburg position towards the end of the battle, thus causing near-panic amongst the French – leading to the unusual spectacle of both armies hastily withdrawing from the battlefield at the same time. At Minden it took part in Spörcken's advance, and when Scheele's brigade, to which it belonged, was effectively crowded out, it determinedly kept up with the *Fussgarde* and participated in the destruction of the French cavalry.

A3: Musketeer, *Infanterie-Regiment Sachsen-Gotha*, 1759

This regiment was a mercenary contingent hired by the Hanoverian government in 1756. Dressed at first in white coats with green facings, it changed to red coats on being taken into the Hanoverian Army proper on 25 January 1759. There is a suspicion that it was not regarded as a particularly efficient unit; it had seen little action prior to that date, and was then permanently assigned as an escort to the artillery and bridging train. Apparently its most notable exploit was to contrive to deploy well back from the fighting at Minden, in a position that effectively blocked the advance of the Allied cavalry, thus materially contributing to the unfortunate chain of misunderstandings that followed.

B: HANOVERIAN CAVALRY

B1: Grenadier, *Grenadiere zu Pferde*

The Horse Grenadiers were in effect the dragoon element of the Guard cavalry, and by all accounts were well mounted but rather old-fashioned in their training, which emphasized precision in movements at the expense of speed, and the

use of firearms rather than cold steel. While they were present at most of the major engagements, including Hastenbeck and Minden, their war record was rather uneventful, and in 1762 they were amalgamated with the *Garde du Corps*. Both units wore red coats, but while the latter had dark blue facings the *Grenadiere zu Pferde* had black cuffs and lapels. These were originally edged with gold lace, but this was later dispensed with as an economy measure. The unit did, however, retain the elaborately embroidered grenadier cap featuring the arms of Hanover, as well as other infantry/grenadier accoutrements such as cartridge boxes and match cases on their belts.

B2: Cuirassier, *Kürassiere-Regiment von Hodenburg*

Rather more effective were the heavy cavalry, represented here by a trooper of the *Hodenburg* regiment. While still officially designated as cuirassiers, none of the Hanoverian heavy cavalry actually wore armour by this period, other than metal 'secretes' or openwork metal skullcaps under their hats. Dragoon regiments were very similarly dressed, and were largely distinguished from the *Kürassiere* only by having facing-coloured lapels and right shoulder aiguillettes. When mounted they wore the customary jacked leather knee-boots, but when off duty – as here – they normally changed into more comfortable shoes (at one point Ferdinand had to order their shoes to be turned over to his barefoot infantry). Incidentally, observers tended to be struck by how slovenly the troopers' stockings and breeches looked when they were not wearing their boots.

This particular regiment was the oldest in the army, having been raised as far back as 1645, and was also known as the *Cell'shes Reiterregiment*. For a time it had a reputation as an unlucky unit, with no fewer than three of its *Inhaber*s being killed in action during the War of the Austrian Succession, and a fourth, von Schlutter, killed in the opening days of the Seven Years' War. His successor, von Hodenburg, gave the lie to this by commanding it for the duration – most notably at Hastenbeck, where two squadrons took part in the wildly successful attack on the French right flank.

B3: Prussian dragoon, *Dragoner-Regiment Nr.9 (Holstein-Gottorp)*

Serving alongside the Hanoverian cavalry was an excellent brigade of Prussian dragoons in cornflower-blue coats, represented by this trooper of the brigade commander's own unit, which had coat-colour facings. Holstein-Gottorp's distant origins as a mounted infantry regiment are marked by the wearing of an aiguillette or shoulder knot, as was common to most dragoons of the period. (This feature is sometimes hopefully if rather unconvincingly interpreted as a survival of the old 'arming point' used to fasten armour on to the 'arming doublet' worn beneath, but it is far more plausibly explained as recalling the skein of slow-match once carried looped over the shoulder by both dragoons and infantry corporals.)

Hanoverian *Fussgarde*, as depicted in Knötel's *Uniformenkunde* (see Plate A1). This illustration seems intended to depict the battle of Minden, but while the musketeers of the *Fussgarde* certainly participated in Gen von Spörcken's advance, the grenadier companies did not. Note in the background the regimental colour with the arms of King George II, as carried by all Hanoverian infantry units.

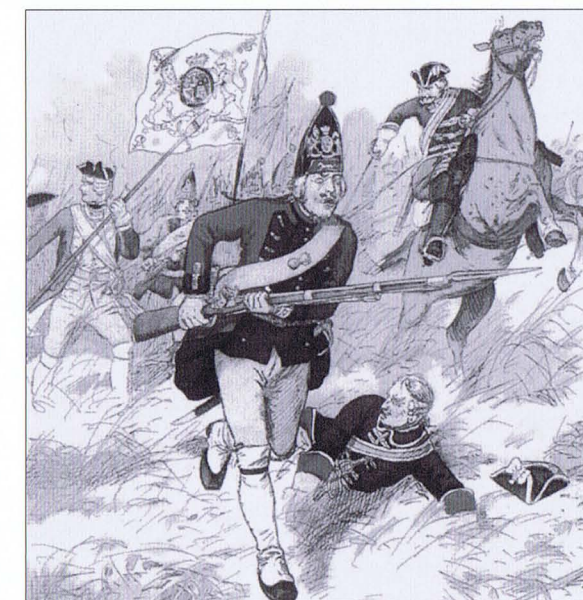
C: LIGHT CAVALRY

C1: Prussian hussar, *Husaren-Regiment Nr.5 (Reusch)*

In addition to the two regiments of dragoons, the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp's Prussian cavalry brigade included three squadrons of these 'Black Hussars' and two from Regiment Nr.7 (Malachowski), the 'Yellow Hussars'. Easily the more recognizable was Regiment Nr.5, with its black uniform topped off with a decidedly piratical *Totenkopf* badge on the *Flügelmütze* hussar cap. British officers had served alongside Hanoverian and other German troops before, but nevertheless close acquaintanceship with the various hussar units that made up such an indispensable part of the Allied forces sometimes seems to have come as a something of a culture-shock. The Black Hussars attracted particular notice, and one rather bemused officer wrote of them to a correspondent as 'a nasty looking set of rascals, the picture you have in the shops in London is very like them though it does not represent their rags and dirt – they make no use of tents; at night or when they rest they run their heads into some straw or any stubble and the rest of their persons lies soaking in the rain. It's said that some private hussars have this campaign got about 2,000 German crowns, nay some advance it to pounds. They drink more brandy than water and eat I believe more tobacco than bread'. Notwithstanding this first impression, less than 50 years later aristocratic British cavalry officers would develop an obsession with replicating some aspects of their appearance – but while expressing great enthusiasm for daring raids in the Zeithen tradition, they proved lamentably uninterested in the outpost work that was supposedly the primary role of hussars.

C2: Hanoverian hussar, *Luckner'scher Frei-Husaren*, 1757

While Luckner's Free Hussars proved themselves a workmanlike crew, very adept at scouting and skirmishing, they were also undoubtedly more interested in picking up any plunder that came their way, and from time to time – as



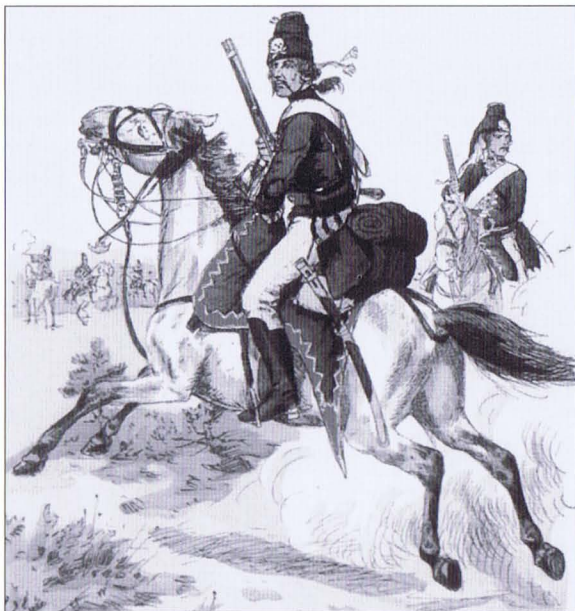
at Warburg – their behaviour induced near-apoplexy among senior officers. This was certainly not helped by their commander's reputation as a poor disciplinarian, and his casual attitude to military accountancy. Johann Nickolaus Luckner was the son of an innkeeper from the Upper Palatinate. Entering the Bavarian Army in 1737, by 1745 he was an Oberleutnant in the Ferrari Hussars, from where he transferred to the Dutch service. In 1757 the then-Rittmeister Luckner entered the Hanoverian service with 54 of his men; as usual, they gave themselves out to be genuine Hungarians, but the close resemblance of their original uniform – shown here – to that worn by the Chasseurs de Fischer in the French service suggests that the 'Dutch' unit was largely formed of former members of that corps (which may also explain their rivalry). Luckner was nevertheless a spirited and successful partisan leader who rose in rank each year, to lieutenant-colonel in 1758, colonel in 1759, major-general in January 1760 (adding the aristocratic 'von' to his name), and lieutenant-general in 1761. After the war he accepted a corresponding appointment in the French army, but was guillotined during the Revolution.

The need to be more easily recognizable in skirmishes with Fischer's men, and equally to avoid being shot up by their own side, soon prompted the unit to adopt a different uniform, comprising white dolman and breeches and a red pelisse, topped off by a grey fur *Kolpack*, although they retained their cherished yellow boots.

C3: Carabinier, Buckeburg contingent, 1758

One of the most outlandish-looking units to serve in the Allied army were the Buckeburg Karabiniere, raised by Graf Wilhelm von Schaumburg-Lippe and commanded by his equerry, Maj Johann Casimer von Monkewitz. With a nominal strength of only 75 men, their tactical effectiveness was

The Uniformenkunde illustration of the Prussian Husaren-Regiment No.5 (von Reusch) – the Black Hussars (see Plate C1), who displayed a death's-head badge on their 'winged cap'.



obviously limited and, unlike Luckner's unit, the company only ever appears to have been used for scouting and outpost duties. The only serious fight they were involved in was apparently the defence of the vital Rhine bridgehead at Rees on 5 August 1758. This reconstruction is tentatively based on Richard Knötel's interpretation of a painting dating from about 1765, when the unit was no longer in existence. Evidently intended to recreate the appearance of the infamous Schwarz Reiter of old, the troopers not only rode all-black Spanish stallions, but wore a black-dyed elk-skin *Kollet* and, initially, near-complete sets of 17th-century cuirassier armour lacking only the thigh-pieces. Officers, by contrast, wore highly polished 'white' armour in equally antique taste, with large infantry-style gorgets. While unquestionably dramatic, this ensemble was soon found impractical for a light cavalry unit, and in 1759 all but the cuirass and helmet were discarded. The helmet was embellished not only with the fur turban depicted here, but with a narrow green band running underneath it bearing the inscription *Pulchrum Mori Succurrit in Extremis* ('In danger, a beautiful death lies waiting') – a sentiment that was doubtless a great comfort to the men who wore it...

D: HANOVERIAN LIGHT TROOPS

D1: Mounted Jäger, Freytag'scher Freikorps

Freytag's Jägers were the first unit of light troops raised for the Hanoverian Army, and as usual comprised both mounted and dismounted companies. The original commanding officer, Graf von Schulenberg, appears to have been an unenterprising sort; it was under his successor Freytag that the unit made its name, although he never quite matched his rival Luckner's reputation, and seems to have been regarded as more reliable than brilliant. As was customary for Jäger units the uniform was green, and topped with a plain black hat. The mounted companies had boots and buff leather breeches as shown, while the foot companies had straw-coloured breeches and grey or brown gaiters.

D2: Grenadier, Scheither'scher Freikorps

Scheither's Freikorps was raised in May 1758 and originally comprised just three companies, but soon expanded dramatically; by 1761 there were four companies of mounted carabiniers, two companies of grenadiers and one of Jägers, totalling about 900 officers and men. Most unusually for the Allied army, the grenadiers wore fur caps; secondary sources sometimes refer to these as being Austrian in style, but they were most likely captured French headgear. (This was certainly not an unknown practice; for example, the entire British 5th Foot adopted the caps that they captured from the Grenadiers de France at Wilhelmstahl in 1761.) The Jägers of this corps wore a similar uniform with unlaced black hats, but the Karabiniere had pale straw-coloured coats similar to those worn by many cuirassier regiments – which rather reinforces the impression that, initially at least, Scheither clothed his men by scrounging whatever he could find lying around in depots and stores.

D3: Musketeer, 1st Battalion, Légion Britannique

The Légion Britannique was clothed in a distinctly *ad hoc* fashion in keeping with the very mixed nature of its human material. Each of its five constituent battalions was dressed in a completely different uniform, and the 1st was recorded

as having this bright blue coat with straw-coloured facings and smallclothes.

The missions assigned to the Legion were many and varied. In July 1760, all five battalions were detached, along with the Hessian Hussars and a battalion of Jägers, to capture the bridges over the Diemel at Liebtau and Trendelburg. At Warburg, the Legion mounted spirited demonstrations against the French front to cover the outflanking march of the main army; afterwards it was ordered to join in the pursuit of the defeated French, but the abandoned baggage trains proved too much of a temptation, and they joined Luckner's men in plundering the town. Most of the Legion were discharged at Munster on 2 January 1763. This was anticipated with some trepidation, but in the event a surprised Gen Conway reported that it was 'executed without the least Tumult or Disorder, which considering how this Corps is composed chiefly of deserters of all Nations... was more than was expected, [especially] as several [of their] demands remain unsatisfied'. This docility, he believed, was because they were about to be enlisted into the Prussian service; but in fact only enough men volunteered to make up one battalion – which was perhaps just as well, since their commanding officer, MajGen Beckwith, had been planning to use them in a coup aimed at seizing the city of Munster for Prussia.

E: BRITISH CONTINGENT AT MINDEN, 1759

E1: Private, 51st (Brudenell's) Regiment of Foot

The basis of this figure is a near-contemporary painting by Edward Penny of a sick British infantryman, presumably serving in Germany, being given money by the Marquis of Granby. The unidentified soldier's regiment is tentatively identified here as the 51st Foot, by the gosling-green facings. The only other units serving in Germany with similar facings were the 5th and the 24th Foot, but in both cases the Swiss artist David Morier had earlier painted both in quite different uniforms. The green breeches are most unusual for an infantryman, but Penny seems to have been conscientious in depicting uniforms; while there are no other known illustrations of the 51st at this time, this may well have been a regimental affectation by a newly raised corps. Also worthy of note are the stiffened tops to the black gaiters.

Notwithstanding their having only been raised as recently as 1755 the 51st were in fact the first British troops to arrive in Germany, landing to serve as a garrison for Emden in early April 1758. At Minden they were brigaded with the 20th and 25th Foot under Col William Kingsley, marching in the second line of Spörcken's division as it embarked on its famous advance against the French centre. The 'Minden Roses', which legend tells us were plucked by the division as they went into action to serve as an impromptu field sign, actually came from a hedge further down the battlefield where they halted to reorganize after the French had been utterly defeated.

E2: Grenadier, 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment of Foot

However, Minden roses were not picked at all by the grenadier companies of the six British infantry regiments present, since they were assembled into a consolidated grenadier battalion under Col William Maxwell, and this served in Wangenheim's division over on the Allied left. This grenadier of the 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment is based on one of David Morier's paintings. Although most British



LEFT The original uniform of the Luckner'scher Frei-Husaren (see Plate C2): green dolman and pelisse with yellow lace, and red breeches. The close resemblance to that worn by the Chasseurs de Fischer, who were performing the same duties on the same front for the French army, accounts for their switch to a more distinctive uniform.

RIGHT The French Chasseurs de Fischer, c.1745, as depicted in Knötel's *Uniformenkunde*, with red pelisse and breeches and green dolman with yellow lace. The resemblance between this unit and Luckner's Free Hussars was even greater in the early part of the Seven Years' War, by which time Fischer's unit had changed to a green pelisse.

infantrymen had by this time discarded the cheap swords or 'hangers' still theoretically worn as a secondary weapon, grenadiers retained them as a mark of their elite status. No regulation pattern was prescribed, but as a general rule curved blades and basket hilts were popular.

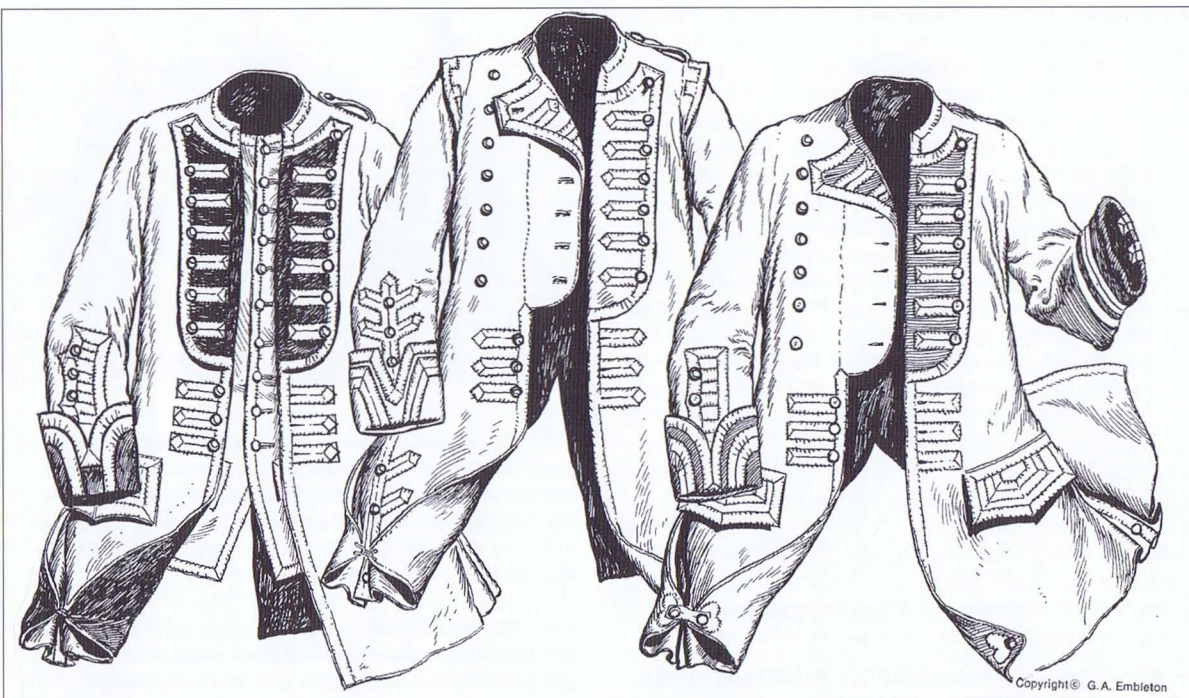
E3: Trooper, 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons

Famously, the British cavalry played no part in the Allied victory as a result of Lord George Sackville's refusal to obey orders to advance; conscious of their failure (actually arising from imprecise and conflicting orders), they supposedly sang not a single note of the celebratory *Te Deum* after the battle. Our rather disgruntled-looking trooper of the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons wears an entirely typical uniform, with facing-coloured waistcoat and breeches. His status as a dragoon is marked by his cartridge box, musket and bayonet. Although conventionally referred to as a carbine, the external dimensions of this weapon were identical to those of the later Short Land Pattern firelock, with a 42in barrel and the same 0.75in bore as the ordinary infantry musket.

F: HESSE-KASSEL CONTINGENT

F1: Grenadier, Leibgarde zu Fuss, 1760

The Leibgarde zu Fuss could trace its unbroken lineage back to the Regiment von Geyso that fought at Lützen in 1632. After the Thirty Years' War it first became the Kassel Palace Company, and then, when the Landgraf Karl formed his standing army in 1684, the Leibgarde zu Fuss. Notwithstanding this pedigree, in the complex 1760 reforms the regiment was redesignated as 3. Garde, being superseded in first place of seniority by a ceremonial Garde-Bataillon.



Gerry Embleton's reconstructions of the cut of typical British infantry regimental coats, from Morier and other contemporary and near-contemporary primary sources (see Plate E). The half-lapels could be buttoned across for extra protection when in the field, either entirely or only for half their depth.

This grenadier provides a good example of the metal-fronted mitre caps favoured by most such units from northern Germany. In this case the front plate was of tin, embossed with the Langraf's cypher and the lion of Hesse. The infill of red paint, seen here as depicted by Knötel, is tentative, but it may have been applied when the caps were first issued and then subsequently polished away. The regiment's musketeers had the usual cocked hats, distinguished by white scalloped lace and red-over-white pompons. Also of interest here are the distinctive dark blue breeches, depicted by the Swiss artist David Morier in his series of paintings executed for the Duke of Cumberland in c.1748. Originally they were worn by all Hessian infantry, making it easy to distinguish them from the similarly dressed Brunswick troops, but there is some uncertainty as to when they were abandoned in favour of the more conventional straw- or yellow-coloured garments being worn by 1761. It is possible that this change may have occurred as early as 1750, but it is more likely that it was part of the effort to make the army more Prussian in appearance in 1760.

F2: Fusilier, Fusilier-Regiment von Berthold, 1760

As part of the 1760 reforms two infantry regiments, Von Gilsa and Von Berthold, were redesignated as Fusiliers. The change in status was purely cosmetic, and other than the probable adoption of white or straw-coloured breeches in place of blue the only real alteration in appearance was the replacement of the cocked hat with the distinctive brass-fronted cap depicted here. Copied from the Prussian style, this cap as worn by the Fusilier-Regiment von Berthold had a dark blue 'bag' rather than orange as previously worn

by the regiment's grenadiers; the caps worn by the fusiliers of Fusilier-Regiment von Gilsa followed their grenadiers by having bags in the facing colour of creamy yellow. Originally raised in 1683, the then Infanterie-Regiment von Capellan had seen action at Hastenbeck in July 1757; on 5 August 1758 at Mehr the regiment was part of Imhoff's force which repulsed the French attempt on the Allied bridgehead at Rees, and it also fought at Lutterberg on 10 October. The following year it was involved in the debacle at Bergen, when Ferdinand of Brunswick rushed, and botched, an attempt to retake Kassel; it had better luck later in the year at Minden, when it was part of Von Wutginau's brigade, and it went on to fight in 1760 at Emsdorf and Warburg.

F3: Musketeer, Frei-Regiment von Gerlach

By contrast, very little is known of the Frei-Regiment von Gerlach, reconstructed here from a painting by Richard Knötel. Other than the obligatory Jäger corps and squadron of hussars Hesse raised very few light troops, in part because the 1760 reorganization meant that nearly all the available recruits had to be pushed into the ranks of the regular army – notwithstanding the detrimental effects on efficiency – rather than segregated in auxiliary units such as this. Nevertheless, in 1762 Ferdinand required each of the national contingents to supply a Jäger or Chasseur battalion for a light brigade being formed under Lord Cavendish, and this was the Hessian contribution, originally known as the Chasseur Battalion von Rall. Once again, as in the Prussian Army, their second-class status was indicated by the wearing of coloured waistcoats and breeches, in this case green, rather than the white or straw-coloured breeches sported by regular units.

G: BRUNSWICK CONTINGENT

G1: Hussar, Husarenkorps

Like the Hessians, the Brunswick troops served in His Britannic Majesty's Army not as an allied contingent, but under the terms of a subsidiary bilateral agreement with the British government. One of the terms of the Convention of Kloster-Zeven in 1757 was a repudiation of that agreement, and accordingly the Brunswick contingent were instructed by their ruler to return home. However, they were intercepted by the Hanoverian Gen von Zastrow when just on the point of crossing over to the French lines. With one exception the officers agreed to continue serving with the Allies – the appointment of Ferdinand of Brunswick to command the army was obviously a significant factor – and thereafter there were no doubts about the Brunswick contingent's loyalty.

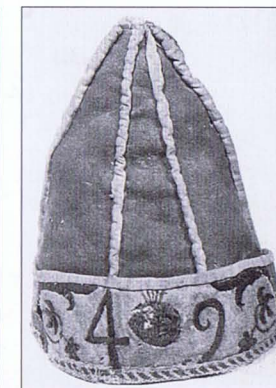
As usual, the Brunswick Hussars were supposedly raised around a substantial nucleus of genuine Hungarians, all of them presumably deserters from the Austrian Imperialist forces. Their true nationalities are questionable; there is no doubt that like most Freikorps volunteers they were drawn from an ever-shifting polyglot population of adventurers, and differed from the mercenaries that roamed Germany during the Thirty Years' War only in probably being more regularly paid and properly uniformed – albeit in a deliberately anarchic style, quite unlike that of the overdressed hussars of a century later. In this case the yellow uniform may have been inspired by that worn by the two squadrons of Prussian Hussar Regiment Nr.7 serving with the Allied army, but is more likely to have been chosen simply to be as different as possible from the blues and greens generally favoured by French hussars.

G2: Officer, Infanterie-Regiment von Imhoff

By contrast, this smart-looking officer is virtually indistinguishable from his colleagues in the Prussian service. While his uniform is obviously made from better materials than those served out to the rank and file, and bears all the customary marks of rank such as metallic braid decoration and a sash loosely knotted around his waist, another indicator of his status is the tailoring. Coats worn by the rank and file followed Prussian fashion, being tightly cut and relatively short, with permanently turned-back skirts; but officers in all the German states – including Prussia – demonstrated that they were gentlemen by continuing to wear very full-cut frock coats. A relatively new regiment formed only in 1748, this unit had a good record; it fought at Hastenbeck, and under LtGen von Imhoff at Mehr in the hard battle to secure the Allied bridgehead over the Rhine at Rees. The regiment was also engaged at Bergen, Minden, Fulda, Ziegenhain, Vellinghausen and Wilhelmstal.

G3: Dragoon, Dragoner-Regiment von Bibow

The status of the regiment represented by this trooper is a little unclear. They did not form part of the original contingent hired by Britain, and do not appear in the Allied order of battle until 1759, by which time they were redesignated as Karabiniere and employed as heavy cavalry. However, at least one source states that prior to that date they were involved as dragoons in *Kleinkrieg* operations, perhaps against Imperialist rather than French troops. The colour of the waistcoat is uncertain, and one source states that it was green.



British infantry grenadier's mitre cap, here of the 49th Regiment of Foot but more or less typical of the designs used by all regiments (see Plate E2). The front and the headband at the bottom rear are in regimental facing-colour; the 'little flap' at the front, and the back of the cap, are red, and the binding of white tape. Unless a regiment had a particular traditional badge the front bore a crowned 'GR' cypher, and the 'little flap' always bore the white horse badge of the Hanoverian dynasty. (Reproduced by permission of the Trustees, National Army Museum, London)

H: TECHNICAL TROOPS

H1: Hanoverian pontoneer

The large number of rivers that cut across the area of operations in western Germany, including the Rhine and the Weser, obliged Ferdinand's army to become unusually adept at bridging. Civilian barges had to be hired in Holland for the Rhine crossing near Rees, but this arrangement obviously had its limitations, and in early 1760 three 'brigades' with light bridging equipment were raised under the command of Maj Bauer, Ferdinand's Quartermaster-General. At first each brigade included a company of hussars, but soon these were themselves assembled into a small regiment, the Frei-Husaren von Bauer, which was taken onto the Prussian establishment. The uniform of these bridging brigades is uncertain; that depicted here is recorded as being worn by pontoneers in the Hanoverian service, and it seems likely that the reference is to Bauer's corps.

H2: Hesse-Kassel artilleryman

Both gunners and officers of the Hessian artillery wore dark blue coats, waistcoats and breeches, with red collar, cuffs, and turnbacks, black hats with red pompons and white or silver lace according to rank, and black gaiters. Equipment was largely copied from Prussian models, with a broad whitened-buff belt supporting a large powderhorn and a drag-rope on the right hip, with loops on the front for pickers.

H3: Artilleryman, Scheither'scher Freikorps

Some of the larger 'free corps' units had their own organic artillery elements, and this gunner of Scheither's corps is based on a contemporary illustration in the Royal Collection at Windsor. The uniform depicted is very similar to that worn by regular Hanoverian artillerymen, but lacks the regulars' half-lapels on the coat; it features a steel-grey rather than a red waistcoat, and displays the distinctive lace pattern on collar and cuffs worn by all of Scheither's men.

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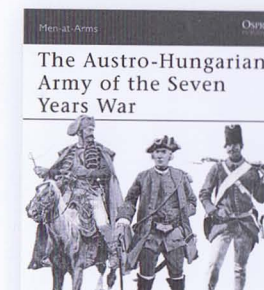
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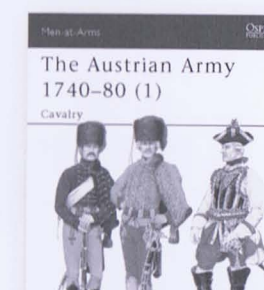
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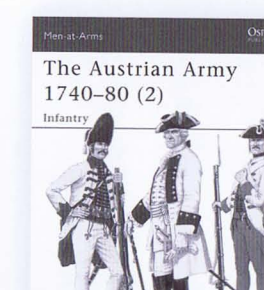
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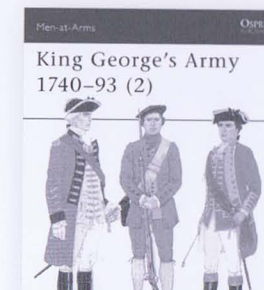
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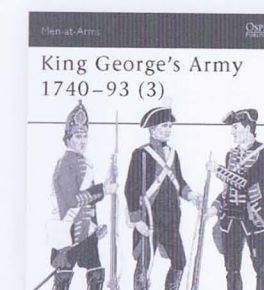
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